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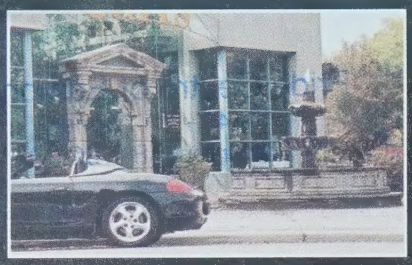

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Cover: Rough 'n' ready for the onset of spring
Colin photographed by Patricio Del Rio

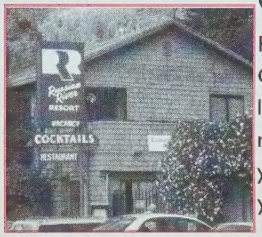
what's where

YOU TALKING TO ME? 24

We sure are, Mr. Jackman—what's all this we hear about you kissing boys on Broadway? A summit with Liza? *Get out*! C'mon, Hugh—dish, *dish*!

LOFTY AMBITIONS 12

Designer Dean Debienne has set out to create an oasis of elegance in Calgary's emerging East Village, blending the best of "uptown" with "downtown". Will he succeeed? With his sense of style and a superior space, we think he already has.



GOT WOOD? 22

Russian River certainly has—countless acres of California redwoods, not to mention a great little gay scene. Whether you're planning a romantic getaway or a relaxing soujourn, once you hear more about this west coast gem you'll be rushin' to get there.

SOMETIMES DIRT UNDER THE NAILS *CAN BE* QUITE SEXY 37

Planning on hitting the garden with a vengeance this season? We have all the dirt that's fit to print—not to mention tips on soil, clay, compost and... mushroom substrate?

May 2003
The Home Style Issue

got merlot?

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LETTERS

[Cc'd to *Outlooks* from an original message to the Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo Association.]

Greetings.

I just wanted to ask why ARGRA has not made any comment of support for the victims of the Goliath's raid. It may seem "political" to make a comment or to stand up as an organisation in regards to a 'police action' against our community but the Rodeo is also a political act.

We need to stand together.

I'm from Edmonton and when the police raided our "cruising park" the community stood united in challenging the city and the police. Businesses, organizations and individuals stood up and took the actions of the police, questioned them and the motives of persecution they perpetrated. It seems much the same instance has happened in Calgary and it would be great to see an organization I support (ARGRA) take a stand as a voice of the community

Sitting back and taking the stance that it's 'political' or it's not affecting us or we might offend the members is not a justifiable reason for inaction when the community and individuals are targeted and persecuted. The old saying "united we stand, divided we fall" comes to mind… What's next, the headline "1,000 Campers Arrested at the Gay and Lesbian Rodeo for Lewd and Disorderly Conduct"? Who will speak for you then?

I would hope the community would be united behind you, (and me if I was a participant) if this happened. It's time to think—and act.

R. Pearson

Edmonton

Dear Mr. Pearson,

Thank you for taking the time to write to ARGRA. The Board members of ARGRA had a meeting on this very topic not long after the police raid took place. While we recognise that individual ARGRA members may have their own personal opinion in this matter, the Board of Directors must represent the interest of the organization as a whole. The following is our Board's position: The Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo Association (ARGRA) is not a political advocacy group. ARGRA's mandate is to promote the country and western lifestyle throughout the year, as well as hosting the annual Canadian Rockies International Rodeo.

ARGRA has not taken a public position for or against the Calgary Police Service (CPS) raid on Goliath's Saunatel on December 12, 2002. ARGRA does not feel that enough facts have been presented to make an educated decision. ARGRA has worked with the CPS throughout our ten-year existence and has a good relationship with the gay community liaison officer, Doug Jones.

ARGRA Board members:

President - Jamie Cumberland
Vice-President - Judy Munson
Trustee - Ashley Anderson
Rodeo Director - David Freeman
Treasurer - Alan Frank
Fund Raiser - John Blenkinsopp
Secretary - Pierre Cadieux
Public Relations - Greg Holsworth

Dear *Outlooks*,

Had I not read David King's article "Trailer Tranny" in the March issue of the magazine, my partner and I would have missed out on a great night of entertainment. I must admit that the headline put me off a bit—I have never been a "fan" of drag shows of any kind, but Darrin Hagen's one *person* show *Tornado Magnet* was so much more than that. It was a fun, energetic and sometimes touching evening that was, in our opinion, far removed from the "drag" we have come to know in bars and clubs. Congratulations to One Yellow Rabbit for bringing the show to Calgary audiences; congratulations to Darrin Hagen on a job well done; and finally thank you *Outlooks* for drawing us into something we might have otherwise missed.

Bob B. and Ray L.,

Calgary

(From an e-mail sent directly to contributor Lorne Bradley regarding his article "Bringing it all together" in the April edition of *Outlooks*)

Hi Lorne,

I read your article in *Outlooks* and was happy to know that someone shares my line of thinking. I move around a lot and have lived in Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and recently moved back to Calgary. I am twenty-eight years old and have recently come out of the closet for a second time (don't ask—long story!). Having seen and spent a lot of time on Davie Street, I am totally in agreement with the need for such a street in Calgary; not only does it give us a "safe" place to express ourselves, but it also allows the rest of Calgary a place to go for "education", to learn that homosexuals, lesbians and transgendered, etc. are really not different, just unique. It also speaks to Calgary as a city that is progressive and accepting, and a city that embraces diversity. Anyways I would love to hear about the response that you are (or are not) receiving [regarding the article]. I am interested in helping to develop or be a part of a committee or team that would work to create such a district. I have a few ideas and questions and would love to meet or chat on the 'net or phone, whichever. Please respond and let me know what your next step—if you have one—will be. Later...

C. Scott

The Editor Responds:

A committee to help create a gay district in Calgary? Sounds like a great idea to me—any other "takers" out there?

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Sign your name and include your address and phone number. All letters are subject to editing—and please, no more than 400 words. Write to:
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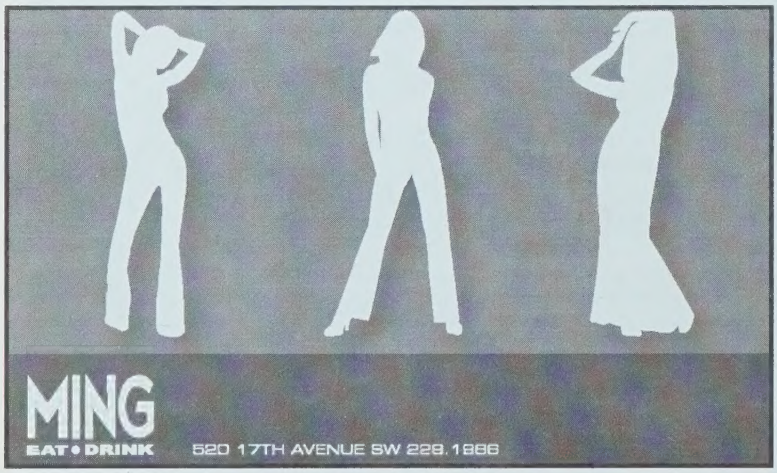

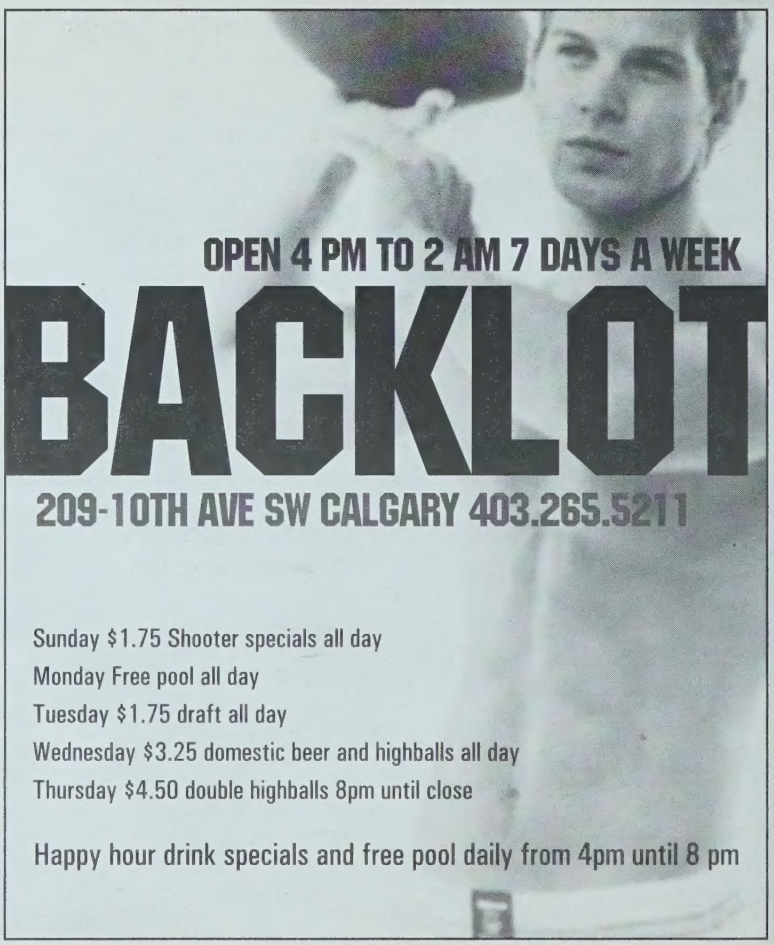

PUBLISHER'S **COLUMN**

Heritage Canada helps out

By Roy Heale

Once again, spring is in the air and we find ourselves turning our thoughts toward outdoor activities, gardening and home improvement. I hope this issue provides you with some inspiration for the upcoming summer months, whether you're spending some time at home, enjoying the outdoors or relaxing on summer vacation.

Home improvement need not necessarily be restricted to the home you live in. Here at *Outlooks*, we've made some "home" improvements that you will begin to see in this spring issue. Now that we have received a Heritage Canada "Support For Canadian Editorial" grant, we have planned some new additions for future issues of the magazine. Starting in this edition, we would like to welcome Tyler Hopson, our new Outpost Regina columnist, a forerunner in a selection of new contributors from across Canada. We are also planning future issues that will include poetry and fiction, a development inspired by some of our very talented RSVP competition entries and the tremendous response to the inclusion of winning and qualifying material received. We are also hoping to discover some new photographers for Out & About coverage in centres such as Saskatoon, Ottawa, Kelowna, Yellowknife and Victoria, to name but a few. Also keep an eye out for political cartoons and more illustrations in the pages of *Outlooks* in future.

Canada's Heritage Minister, the Honourable Sheila Copps

The extra funding provided by this Heritage Canada grant will allow us to add some new features to *Outlooks* without having to find additional advertising revenue to offset the costs associated with such expansion. For this we are grateful to Heritage Minister Sheila Copps and Heritage Canada for providing much-needed assistance to independent magazines across Canada. As a first-time recipient, we're extremely privileged to be able to grow and expand, thanks to the support of our federal government. As the only monthly GLBT magazine to receive this kind of funding, we're especially pleased to see gay tax dollars coming back to the community as some measure of equality-after all, the *Alberta Report* also receives assistance from Heritage Canada and I, for one, do not relish the idea of any of my hard earned tax dollars going *there*!

Recently, the National Library of Canada in Ottawa became a permanent home for issues of *Outlooks* each month and the ISBN number assigned us (1015-392) now makes it easy for visitors to this institution to find current and back issues for reference purposes. We are also currently in discussions with the University of Calgary Library Collection, exploring the possibility of them becoming our official archives. This means that they would receive and store our collection of issues from the very first edition in March of 1997 and continue to catalogue all subsequent editions. As well, other relevant documents significant to the history and development of *Outlooks* would be collected and stored with them. Housed in a climate-controlled environment, these copies would remain in a condition conducive to future use by readers and researchers wishing to source GLBT material and information.

As a spring fever gives way to outdoor summer plans, be sure to enjoy your home improvements, time in the garden and summer vacations. ▼

UPCOMING PRIDE FESTIVITIES IN CALGARY

Next month is the time for Pride celebrations in many cities throughout North America and, once again, *Outlooks* will produce its National Pride Guide supplement to be enclosed with the June issue. Watch out for details on Pride activities across Canada, and especially some new festivities here in Calgary. All too often, Pride celebrations can be "same-old, same-old" year after year and, if we're not careful, they can lose their momentum due to a lack of imagination on the part of those charged with the responsibility of organizing the ongoing activities. Also in the June issue, we will include a special travel feature on the silver anniversaries being celebrated during Pride in San Francisco, where community history has effected so many of us in one way or another. Keep an eye open for it!

PRIDEVISION TV UPDATE

If you are not familiar with the GLBT progamming which can be viewed on PrideVision TV, then mark May 23rd-25th on your calendar. Special arrangements have been made for a free preview on Rogers cable TV commencing noon, May 23 until midnight on May 25 on channel 181. As we go to press, it is anticipated that BellExpressVu and Cogeco will also provide this free weekend of programming at the same time. Updated information and details can be found at: **www.pridevisiontv.com** or inquiries can be sent to **marketing@pridevisiontv.com** for further details. Be sure to take this opportunity to view some great community programming and learn more about our very own television network.

EDITORIAL

Talking back

By John Coulbourn

"Because I said so!"

That was always my mother's final argument in every debate, from why I couldn't stay out late on a Friday night to why I had to wear overshoes, despite the fact that they made me look like the village idiot most villagers assumed me to be. Come to think of it, it was father's final word on most subjects too, although, pragmatist that his was, he was likely to add: "And I'm a damn sight bigger than you are."

Shaded in nostalgia as they are, they are words that can still bring a smile when recalled in loving memory. Until, that is, you find them on the lips of your duly elected government.

And reading between the lines, that's precisely the justification the federal government is using to appeal the Ontario divisional court ruling last July that struck down legislative impediments to same-sex marriage, ruling that such impediments violated the rights of gays and lesbians under Canada's Charter of Rights. Now, to be clear, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien has not stood up in Parliament (or even the gay bar in Shawinigan, for that matter) and announced that same-sex couples can't marry because he said so, or even words to that effect.

But reading between the lines in the arguments the government has put forward in their appeal, it's much the same effect—and according to published reports, the Canadian taxpayer (that's you and me, bucko, in case you've lost track) anted up a cool $320,000 for these arguments, paid to more than a dozen academics.

Boiled down to their essence, what those arguments seem to be saying is that the institution of marriage should be limited to opposite-sex couples—insert drum roll here—because it has always been an institution for opposite-sex couples.

If it weren't so sad, it would be ludicrous. Particularly when you start to extrapolate this kind of logic into other issues.

So what if the British House of Lords ruled that women were, in fact, people, back in the days of Nellie McClung and her ilk, for instance.

Up until then, women had been considered an inferior species, so despite the fact that it was massively unfair and patently ridiculous, we should have continued to treat them as inferior specimens.

You may have come a long way, baby, but it's time to get out of the boardroom, kick off those shoes and get back in the kitchen 'til it's time to drop another baby.

While we are on the subject of the 'Persons' case, am I the only one around who has wondered just what the response would have been if the government of the day had followed up the House of Lords' ruling with the decision to hold a series of public hearings on whether or not women should indeed be considered persons here in Canada?

Further, would such hearings have drawn the same kind of whackos—religious zealots and members of whatever political aberration was grappling for the lowest common denominator currently tapped by the Alliance movement—that seem to be coming out of the woodwork to offer dire warnings that the end of the world will be at hand the day Adam and Steve pick up their marriage license?

Small wonder that Wayne Samuelson, head of Ontario's labour federation (and, coincidentally, the father of three daughters—two straight and one lesbian) lost his cool after hearing presentations at the Toronto edition of the Senate's same-sex roadshow currently touring Canada.

In various presentations, homosexuality had apparently been linked to pedophilia, bestiality and mental illness, before Jim Enos of the Hamilton-Wentworth Family Action Council weighed in with the warning that: "Homosexuality will bring eternal damnation of the soul and no human rights tribunal will ever change that."

While one might wish that Mr. Samuelson had suggested that Mr. Enos leave it all to God to sort out, one still has to be impressed with what the by now clearly enraged father did manage to say.

"I'm insulted to hear suggestions that my daughter must suffer from STDs or binge drinking because she is gay," Samuelson said. "In all my years of public policy discussion, I have never seen these kinds of incredibly destructive comments allowed."

Obviously, Mr. Samuelson is a neophyte in this particular battlefield.

We in the gay community know that, when it comes to discourse with the right wing, "Because I said so," is second only to "Because God said so," as a justification for oppresion.

John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun ▼

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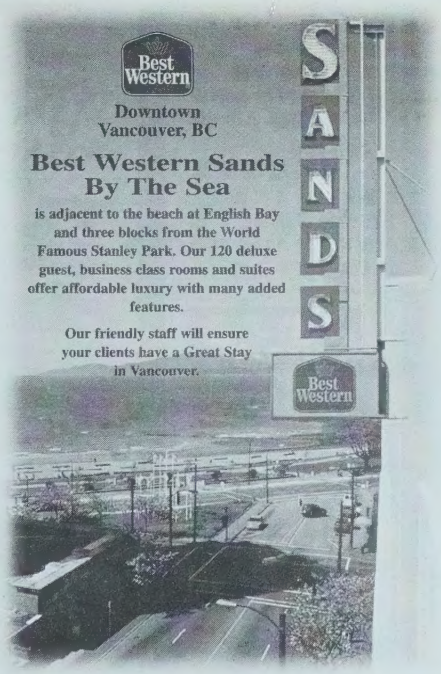

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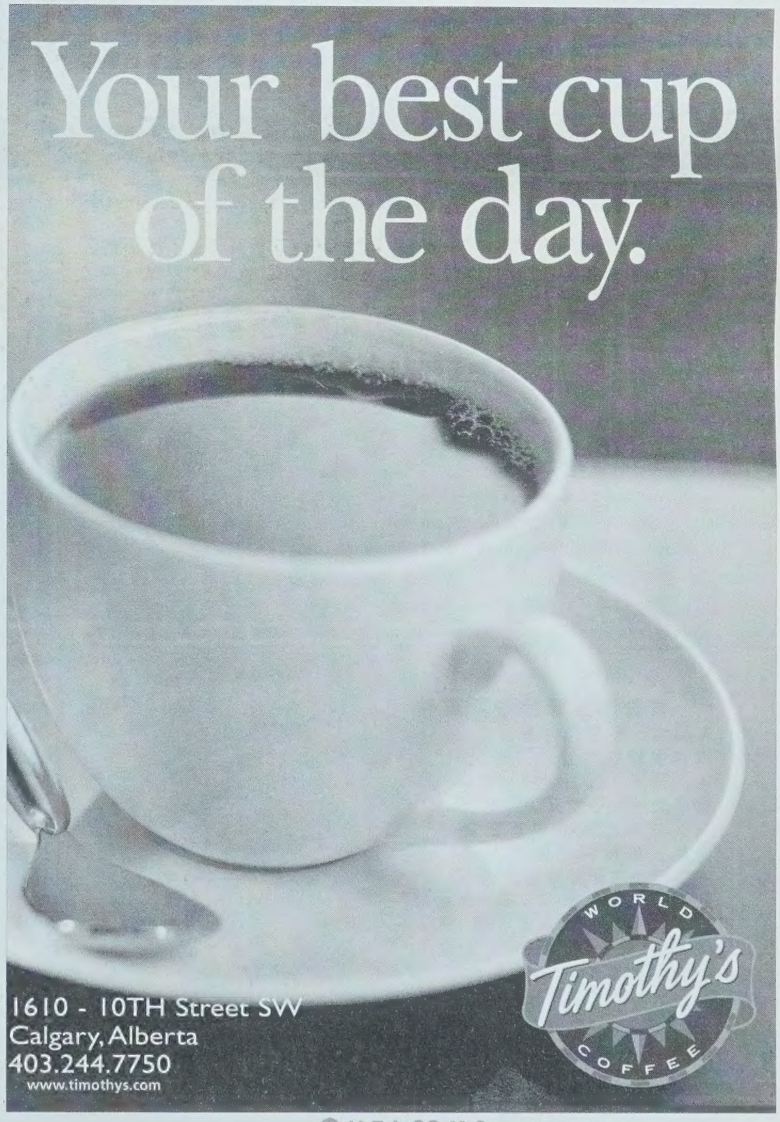

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Salve Regina

By Tyler Hopson

Regina. The very mention of this fine city on the Prairies conjures images of fun, glamour and elegance in the minds of gay men everywhere. As if. But, it was worth a try. In reality, Regina sounds an awful lot like something most gay boys avoid—and you *know* what I'm talking about.

However, readers may wonder just what gay people do in this city. Gays *do* exist here and they are gradually carving a niche out for themselves in a place where homophobia has traditionally run high.

Yada welcomes guests to GBLUR's Divas at the Owl event

While Regina does offer the GLBT community one gay bar and several gay-friendly clubs and venues, until quite recently the many GLBT students at the University of Regina had no place to go for support and friendship with other like-minded people.

Gays, Bisexuals, and Lesbians at the University of Regina is a campus-based club that does just that. Although the club has had varying degrees of visibility since its inception about five years ago, GBLUR has not been overly active in the past two.

That all changed in late 2002, when a new club executive decided to get the ball rolling once again. Tim Smith, current club president, is pleased with their progress thus far.

But it has been a challenge for GBLUR to be noticed once again. "A lot of people are surprised to learn that the group exists," says Secretary Treasurer David Geiss. "You have to let straight people know about it, but also the gay people know that there are other people like them on campus. They're not alone."

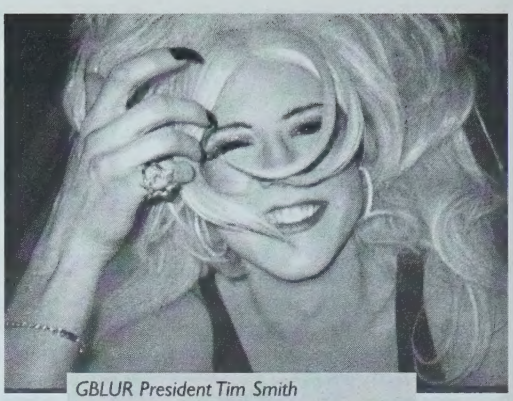
At the current time, GBLUR has about seventy-five members on its mailing list. This is relatively few, given the 11,000 plus students at the U of R. But Smith says the number is increasing.

"I've had a few people drop by the GBLUR office [this semester]," he says. "They come in and check things out and now some of them are regular attendees at our meetings."

On March 1, GBLUR organized a first-of-its-kind event at the U of R: Divas at the Owl, a night of drag king and queen entertainment, was held at the campus bar.

The turnout for the event was much higher than anticipated. Before the show, GBLUR sold about 100 tickets in the hallways around campus. "We also gave about 100 tickets to GBLUR members to sell," says Smith. "So, we expected about 200 people to show up."

To the club's surprise, more than 450 people showed up for some gender-bending fun. "I think [the bar] was about seven tickets away from capacity," he adds. "The night went off without incident. Everyone I've ever talked to says it was a blast. They ask, 'When's the next one?'".



GBLUR President Tim Smith (pictured here as alter-ego Tess T. Bitch)

At present, GBLUR has made plans to hold a follow-up to Divas at the Owl in early September.

The show was also a huge fundraiser for the normally cash-strapped organization. With over $2000 in profits, GBLUR has many plans for the future. Shortly after the March 1 show, GBLUR donated over $600 to local GLBT and GLBT-friendly groups.

The club has also recently acquired a grant from the Students' Union to purchase GLBT books and magazines. "Then people don't have to go to a library and take out books," Smith says. "It's quite private in [the GBLUR office], and we always understand about confidentiality issues."

Geiss agrees with Smith that one of the club's primary benefits is "... having people to hang out with who'll know what the hell you're talking about".

Although the summer months are quiet ones on the U of R campus, GBLUR can be contacted at gbl_ur@hotmail.com. The club plans to get fully underway again in September. ▼

Tyler Hopson, a recent graduate of the University of Regina, has just completed a year-long stint as Arts & Entertainment Editor at that school's student newspaper. He will soon be relocating to Vancouver, where he will be working toward a Master of Journalism degree at the University of British Columbia.

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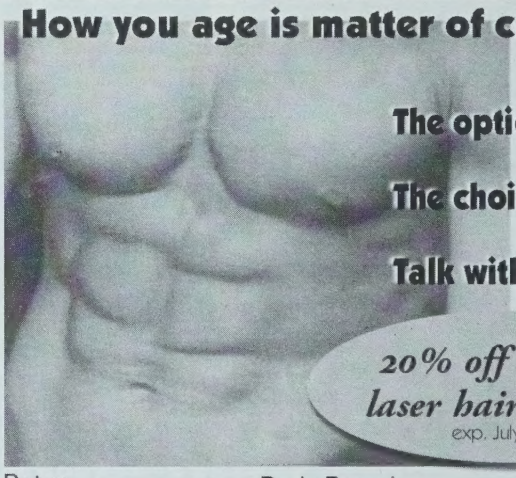

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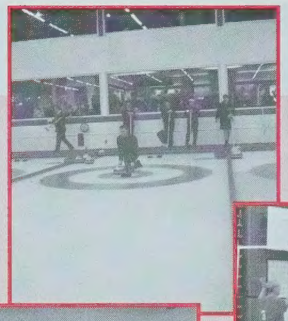

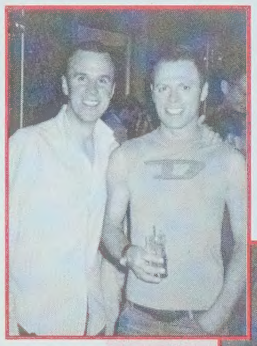

Saturday Night Dance
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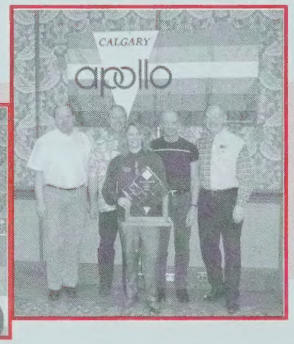
Awards Brunch
WESTIN HOTEL



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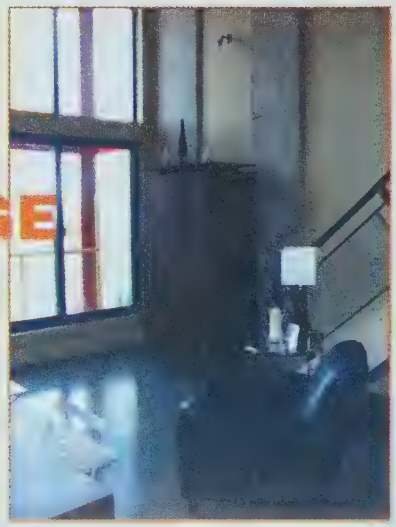
Peeling The ORANGE



By David Crosson

Ah, decisions decisions. When you have a new home to define as your own, the possibilities are endless. This is particularly true with the Orange Lofts, a development recently completed in Calgary's up-and-coming downtown East Village. Raw and spare, from polished concrete floors to soaring windows they are urbanism exemplified, the ultimate blank slate. Now, imagine a situation where one of these blank slates belongs to an interior designer—would that be classified as a matter of 'nightmare' or 'nirvana'?

Fortunately for Dean Debienne, an award-winning production designer who works for the firm Sizeland Evans Interior Design Inc., the latter is closer to the truth. As one of the first buyers to sign on with the project, Debienne has had almost two years to consider both the limitations and advantages of tackling such a spartan and modern space. For the young designer, the limitless possibilities presented by his new home are not as much about trend as they are about personal style.

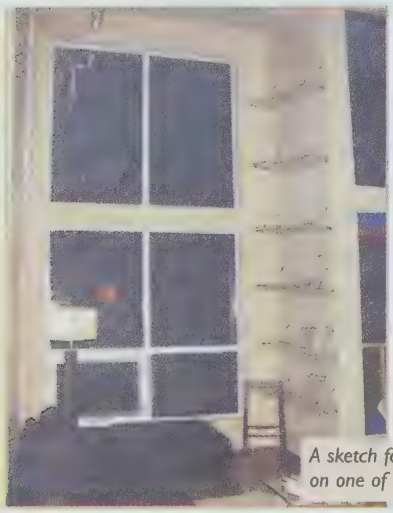
"Hopefully, when people get past the view of the hookers down on the street, they'll see that I've really put a lot of thought into the furniture and accessories that I've picked for the space."

"I'm going to have my furniture and other things in here for a long time, so I wanted something timeless," he says of his interior selections. To this end, much of Debienne's furniture is "traditionally modern", featuring a lot of dark, rich woods and a deep, neutral base palette of greys. Several large-scale pieces (armoire, dining table) have been custom-built by his father to complement the clean lines of the other furniture Debienne the Younger has acquired over the years. Mid-century masters Charles Eames and Eileen Gray are both cited as aesthetic inspirations.

"At this point I'm planning to keep the rest of the space fairly neutral," Debienne says, "then leaning towards bringing in some richer deep reds through pillows, throws and accessories."

Despite an almost daily bombardment of new products, materials and colours in his professional life, Debienne manages to keep his sights firmly set on what is right for *him*.

"Being exposed to so much, it can be difficult to limit the choices to what I want in my own space and what I find livable," he admits. "I'm always seeing new things and going 'Wow, that's fantastic!' but then I also have to ask myself 'Can I live with that?'".



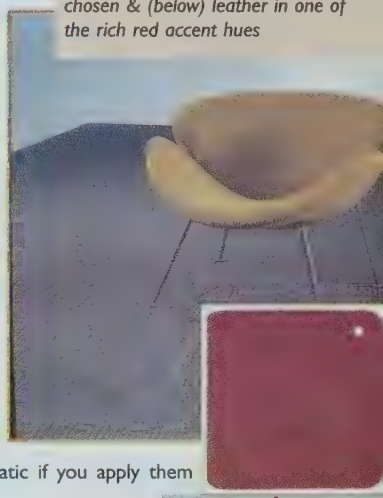
A sketch for planned shelving on one of the two-storey walls

One of the elements Debienne knows he *could not* live without is built-in storage, which will help bring a bit more 'function' to the 'form' of the open-plan space. To this end, closets have been designed for the upper loft bedroom and a workstation devised for the area below the stairs. A special kitchen/dining/entertainment island has also been commissioned for the transitional kitchen and living area, complete with a polished concrete top that references the material that runs throughout the first floor.

To define the other areas of the condo, Debienne has chosen a patterned tone-on-tone commercial carpet for the stairs and bedroom, and invested in a chic goatskin rug "to add some texture and softness to the space" on the main level. Sleek surface finishes and sumptuous tactile fabrics have also been incorporated in both decor and accessories in order to temper the "downtown" feel of the loft.

"For me it's more about elegance than funkiness," Debienne says of his choices. "In a way I'm working against the space somewhat, particularly in some of the artwork I'm bringing in. An artist friend of mine gave me a little piece she had done of grain elevators and it's in my bathroom; I have a big space I want her to do something in, just to bring contrast to the urbanism. A bit of um... *ruralism*, we could say, to bring in some of my parents' prairie heritage. So much of my furniture is modern that I think the contrast'll be fun."

Although he has had a head start in determining the look of his condo, Debienne stresses that, like any good home, his will be a work in progress. "I think the biggest mistake people can make is thinking they have to make their place look like the show suite they originally saw. An interior should evolve; you start with the pieces you have and add to them gradually," he says. "Too many people try to do everything at once and wind up being 'house poor'. I mean, I have an ottoman I bought two years ago at Caban and I still love it and it totally looks right in this space".



An example of the subtle lozenge patterned monochromatic carpet chosen & (below) leather in one of the rich red accent hues

Another piece of advice he offers new homeowners is to try to avoid falling victim to the push for constant change that some television programs and decorating magazines can inspire:

"I think it's wise, if you are investing in big pieces, that you go with something fairly neutral and then add to it. Over time, trends can be acknowledged and your look changed easily and inexpensively through accessories. Even changes in colour can be quite dramatic if you apply them through accessories".

continued opposite

Much like Debienne's home, the neighbourhood in which the

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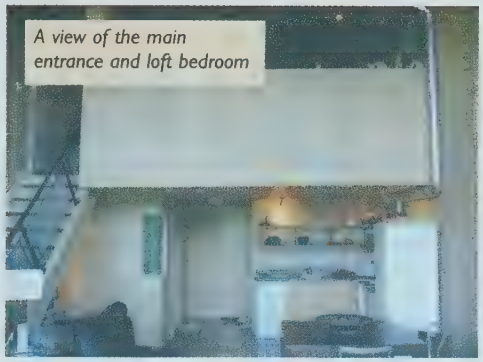

A view of the main entrance and loft bedroom

from previous

Orange Lofts are situated is a work in progress. Since the fast-track development of the area stalled in city hall several months back, there is little indication that the original "pioneers" will be packing up and moving on anytime soon. Nonetheless, despite the added urban texture, Debienne is confident that his purchase was a sound one.

"Hopefully, when people get past the view of the hookers down on the street," he says with a laugh, "they'll see that I've really put a lot of thought into the furniture and accessories that I've picked for the space. This really is a great place to be." ▼

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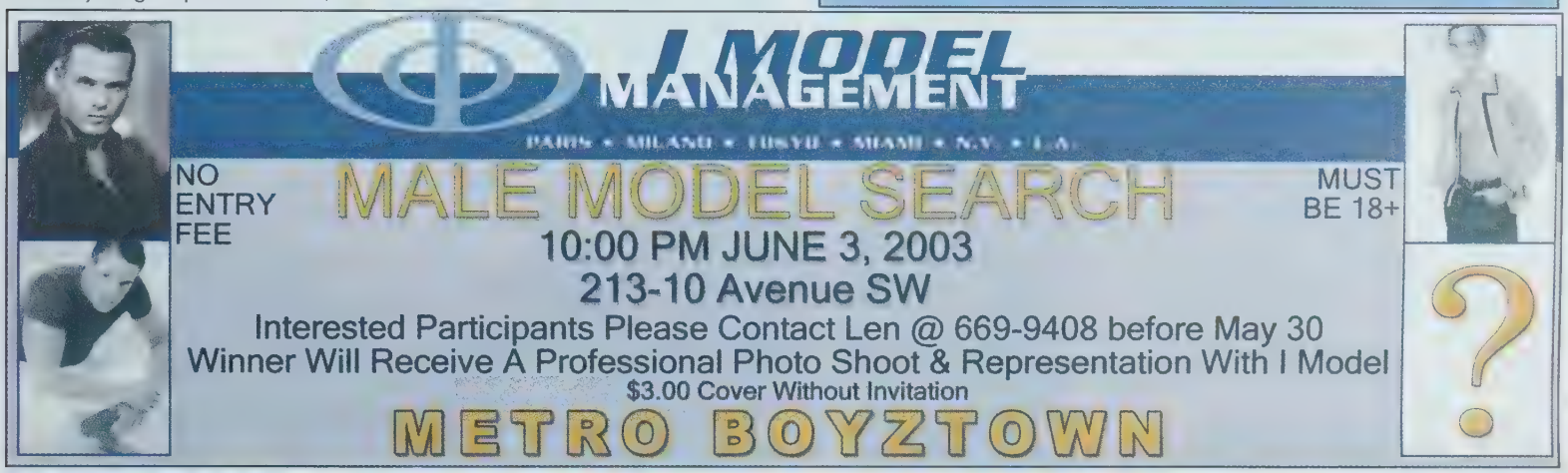
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(left) Vivid Voices
Members of the RHP prepare to share their own spring fever with an appreciative audience.

(right) Strings Attached
Special guest Heather Bishop leant her own special brand of music to the proceedings, as well as some thought-provoking commentary.

Planning an event in Winnipeg? Contact Brent at (204) 789-9215 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. All photos by Brent

Drag King Extravaganza

GIO S

(left) Old West Necktie Party?
Nope—it's just Buster Cherry proving that every girl's crazy 'bout a sharp dressed... *man?*

(below) I Win!
What exactly, may we ask? Obviously the specifics don't count—both Cougar and "his" zealous admirer seem pleased that at least the pants went down!

(above) Cock Tale?
Ryan Coke demurely crosses her...um *his* legs over an important new acquisition while regaling the crowd with philosophies on life.

The Winter Hop Soul Revue!

CLUB 200

(above) Flashdance!
You've heard of the Anti-Christ? Well, this is the Anti-Tuck! Meet Urethra Franklin—all of 'er!

(right) Femmes Fatales
On hand to wow the crowd were (from left) Urethra Franklin, Hilary Brookes, hostess Jennifur Coates, Simone del Monte and Joan Costalotsa

Mr. & Ms. Gio's Pageant

GIO S

(above) Hi Beams
Guenivere de Giovanni and Phil Thee greet their new "subjects" as Mr. & Ms Gio's 2003.

(above) Horsefeathers 'n' Puss
After a 16-month reign, Trojan Horse (left) and Willyssa Thunderpuss find an opportunity to get off their feet!

Head Over Heels Gymnastics Fundraiser

DOWN UNDER

(right) Tickled Pink... or Is That more of a Blue?
Body painters on hand to heat things up in support of Pride.

Miss Martini Pride Fundraiser

DOWN UNDER

(left) Blue Boys
All sporting blue shirts, Rob, Murray and Ryan seem to have nothing to be moody about!

(right) Miss Martini
Kathleen hoists some "cold comfort" in aid of Winnipeg's upcoming Pride celebrations. Is that thing shaken or stirred, we wonder?

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17th Pride festival: colour socials add to rainbow

By Peter Carlyle-Gordge

Winnipeg's Pride Week festivities will get underway May 30, culminating in the annual parade, festival concert in Memorial Park, as well as evening dance socials and cabarets at Le Rendezvous and the Empire Cabaret, respectively.

Shawna Dempsey reflects on her performance in the Adults in Wonderland cabaret during Pride 2002

As a prelude event, Friday May 29 will see the official raising of the rainbow flag at Winnipeg's City Hall and Pride Committee Chair Dennis Trochim tells *Outlooks* that, this year, Mayor Glen Murray will be present. When the event was inaugurated last year he was away from town on business. "He will definitely be there and making a speech," says Trochim, a local playwright and manager of Happenings Social Club.

The dance party at Le Rendezvous after the parade will have the theme Sin-ergy. Trochim says the event, which attracts over 1,000 attendees, has moved away from being a traditional social and now has more of a circuit party atmosphere, with lots of energy, loud techno music and reverberating beats.

If you prefer a slightly quieter, more laid-back style, then you likely want to choose the less frantic atmosphere at the Empire Cabaret. It will feature a masquerade theme this year and the cabaret, with a focus on live entertainers, will likely draw more lesbians than gay men as it has in past years. It's also popular with those whose eardrums can no longer handle the wild beat at Le Rendezvous. "Even *I* feel totally exhausted after a night there," laughs chairperson Trochim.

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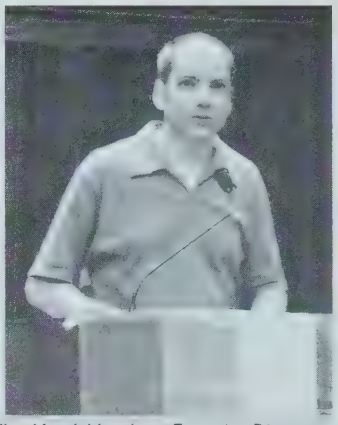
This year's Pride will last ten days and is expected to attract at least 10,000 participants to all its events. They include a volleyball tournament as well as an art show at a venue near the University of Winnipeg, designed to showcase new talent in the GLBT community. Also planned is an exhibition at the Centennial Library in downtown Winnipeg. It will depict the history of the GLBT community here, as well as showing past Pride festivals. This year's event is the seventeenth continuous Pride celebration.



Gilles Marchildon (now Executive Director of EGALE) taking part in a panel discussion at the University of Winnipeg

This year's theme is All Together Possible and the idea is to show that great advances have been made in GLBT rights and in public recognition since the first Pride event in 1987. These advances both in law and social acceptance have been won only by everyone cooperating to make them happen. Pride committee officials say the theme is intended to honour all those who worked together to achieve these goals.

The Winnipeg festival usually just breaks even financially. The socials make a profit but just organizing the post-parade events in Memorial Park costs around $9,000. "Insurance for special events like this has jumped dramatically in the wake of the terrorists attacks and we have a lot of other expenses," says Trochim. " We are looking at ways we can raise funds year 'round rather from just the socials. The concert in Memorial Park costs a lot, but basically has no income other than a few hundred dollars from renting tables to businesses and organizations."

The rainbow flag flies proudly alongside those of Canada and Manitoba

Last year, the committee brought in internationally known singer and three-time Juno award-winner Carole Pope, but the decision this year is to focus on good quality local groups and entertainers. To help with the financial anemia, Trochim would also like to see increased corporate sponsorship. Molson Breweries, Lamda members and Cruiseline are giving support this year and there were several corporate donors last year, including Air Canada. Trochim says most national companies funnel their sponsorship to larger Pride events such as the one in Toronto, which attracts hundreds of thousands of people. The bottom line is that the Winnipeg event just isn't big enough to attract large sponsorships and Trochim would like to see that change.

The organizing committee offers a Pride Partnership Program to sponsoring businesses. Each sponsorship package is designed to satisfy community investment goals as well as sales and marketing objectives.

This year the committee has tried to fatten the thin pot of gold at the end of the Pride Festival rainbow by staging three "colour socials", with the themes "Red Hot and Bothered", "Mood Indigo" and a final one called "All That Glitters Is Not Gold". They are intended as fundraisers for the committee's work and have met with moderate success. Two of the socials have already been held, but the final one—"All that Glitters..."—will be May 29 at the nightclub Kairo. It will be a dance and performance extravaganza with profits going to help pay for the free concert in Memorial Park on June 9.

Parade 2002 in full swing

Another major challenge for Trochim is ensuring standards stay high and that more volunteers come on board to make the Pride Festival grow. "We get some very good people but, unfortunately, we lose a lot every year because people leave town or move on," he says. "We still need more committed volunteers to help us keep the momentum and that means people willing to commit a couple of hours a week at least."

continued opposite

from previous

Despite these challenges he is optimistic that the seventeenth Pride festival will attract even more people than last year's event and that it will continue slow but steady growth:

"We definitely need more corporate sponsors but we also need a year 'round effort to increase our funding base because costs keep rising. Most people agree that this event really helps the visibility of the GLBT community and that it's important to keep it going and growing.

Anyone wanting tickets for the cabaret at the Empire or for the dance extravaganza at Le Rendezvous can get them at any of the Winnipeg clubs, including Gio's, Club 200 and Happenings. Tickets cost $15 and include food as well as the entertainment. They can be reserved in advance and paid for with a credit card if required. More information on Winnipeg Pride events can be found at their website: **www.gaypridewinnipeg.com** ▼

Guest of honor Carole Pope performs for the festival crowd

Peter Carlyle-Gordge is a former Manitoba correspondent for* Maclean's *and* The Financial Post. *He has written for most major magazines and newspapers in Canada as well as broadcasting on the national and international networks of CBC Radio.

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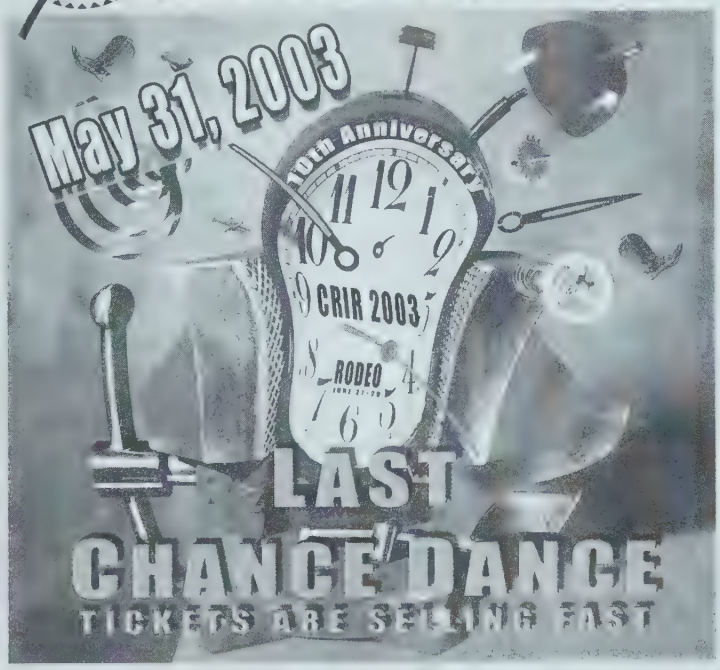

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The 'Burbs

By Jason Fantastic

Other than inventing a fabulous time machine to transport me into Rob Lowe's shower circa 1986, owning my very own pansy palace has always been one of my main goals in life. After paying nearly $30,000 in rent (which roughly translates to a whopping sixty pairs of Prada shoes, 3,750 Grey Goose Vodka Martinis or 1,310 Rob Lowe DVDs) over a two-year period in downtown Toronto, my boyfriend and I decided that it was time to begin walking down the yellow brick road toward fantastic home ownership and start saving for a downpayment.

We weighed our options and, after careful exploration, it seemed that *no one* was willing to foster our economic growth by renting us a fabulous two-thousand square foot penthouse with dishwasher, sauna, maid's quarters and walk-out terrace with dwarf shrubbery for free. So, what did we do? We did the unthinkable: nine months ago we moved to The 'Burbs.

Growing up a budding young queen in exotic CrappyLittleSmallTown, Nova Scotia, I often lamented the fact that God was punishing me. I was a big city boy trapped in a small town life. Correction: I was a big city boy trapped in a small town life with the world's largest inshore scallop fleet and a yearly Scallop Days Festival during which some unfortunate soul was crowned the Scallop Queen. I couldn't get out soon enough and approximately twelve minutes into my high school graduation, I snuck out the back door and fled to Halifax. A few years later I moved to Tokyo, Japan, then to Toronto, leaving small town life behind forever. Or so I thought.

While making the arduous decision whether to move away from the downtown core or not, I asked myself many important soul-searching questions. Did I have enough Circuit Party CDs with which to commute one-and-a-half hours each way, every day? Could I risk not being home in time for *American Idol*? And, the most important question of all, could I actually live outside of walking distance to the nearest Club Monaco? I decided the answer was absolutely, positively, without doubt a definite "maybe". Then, one night when very, *very* drunk, my "maybe" mutated out of control into a "yes". There was no going back.

A few short months later, I bid adieu to my shiny stainless steel Lagostina pots and fabulous acoutrements collected from travels abroad as they were packed up and shipped off to storage. I wouldn't be needing them (or much of anything) where I was headed. You see, not only were we moving to The 'Burbs, we were moving to *The 'Burbs to live with the in-laws*.

Normally when telling this story in person I pause at this point to allow for all manner of shocked and stunned expressions, outbursts of tears and laughter, profanity or complete and utter silence for extended periods. Since you are reading this, feel free to blink a few times, rub your eyes, close your mouth and carry on when you have gathered yourself.

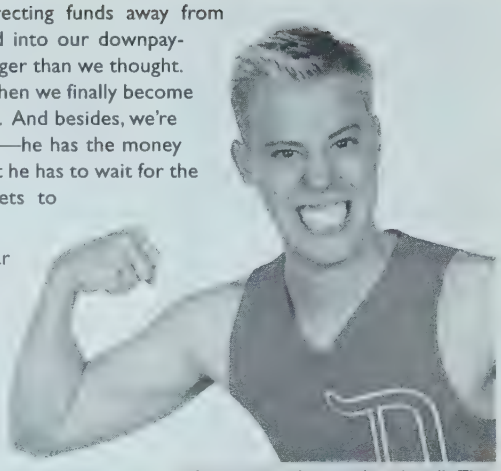
Yes, so, back to the story. All packed up, my boyfriend and I moved away from downtown and in with his parental units at the end of the Earth in September.

The 'Burbs are a most unusual place—especially new 'Burbs. All the houses look exactly the same, with lovely light coloured bricks and pastel yellow and baby blue accents. They have gables and pretty little gardens by the walkway. And it is quiet. *Man, is it quiet.* Some would call it a relaxing paradise away from the hustle and bustle; a great place to raise a family. I call it Hell on Earth. I mean—God, it looks like Holly Hobby threw up all over this place! And every house looks so similar, even after nine months I still can't remember which one is mine.

Then there is the whole living-with-the-parents thing to contend with. Whereas previously I would be decked out in a nice Calvin Klein smoking jacket, watching *Queer As Folk* and sipping a lychee martini, I now find myself in sweats, watching *Wheel of Fortune* and drinking water. And it's not even Perrier. Plus, there are bizarre parental rules to contend with like turning off the water while soaping up in the shower (*quoi?*) and recycling tinfoil (*excusez-moi?*).

Now spring is coming and the thought of regular family barbeques is making me queasy. It's time to get out. After careful deliberation, my boyfriend and I have decided to delay the home buying plans and move back to civilization, leaving The 'Burbs behind. Way, way, *way* behind.

Cutting our sentence in The 'Burbs shorter than we had planned means there will be no new condo in a gleaming downtown skyscraper this year. With Toronto real estate prices rising faster than the buildings themselves, we will simply have to keep exercising willpower in redirecting funds away from party ensemble purchases and into our downpayment fund for a little while longer than we thought. But it will be oh, so worth it when we finally become queens in our very own castle. And besides, we're better off than Prince Charles—he has the money to buy any palace he wants, but he has to wait for the *mater* to croak before *he* gets to become queen.



Are you tough enough to handle The 'Burbs?

Even if it takes an extra year or two, it's OK. I firmly believe that one glamourous, tailored Miu Miu shirt is far better than ten loose-fitting Gap shirts from the sale rack. The same goes for a home. It's all about quality. We could probably snap up an older place right now, but why settle? I need stainless steel appliances and a balcony overlooking the city lights. I need closets, closets and more closets. I need a bedroom one could twirl in and a washroom with Kohler faucets. And windows. Lots of windows! Ahhhhh... I know the time will come.

The moral of the story is that you can't always live solely for the future; you have to live a little in the present, too. And a dream is still a dream whether it happens tomorrow or two years down the road. Well, that's the line we've giving the parents, anyway. Between you and me, the real moral of the story is never ever make any life-altering decisions after five martinis. None that include Holly Hobby, in-laws, or The 'Burbs, that is. ▼

Jason Fantastic writes a weekly column called Jasonisms for www.slackalice.ca.

Good music, bad boy

By Tyler Hopson

Maritime musical bad-boy Ashley MacIsaac

After a series of odd encounters three years ago, the man who has been described as "Cape Breton's most notorious fiddler" is back on the scene again.

And just what does Ashley MacIsaac have to say about his three years out of the limelight?

Not much.

In fact, he prefers to talk about… well, almost *anything* else, actually.

The twenty-eight-year-old has just released a new, self-titled CD. Although the disc and accompanying press photos portray him as being a bit more clean-cut than before, MacIsaac says not all that much has changed.

"New look, same goal. You know, trying to sell myself and my music. It's the same thing as usual," he stresses.

When asked about his tarnished image from a few years back, an image caused by such things as flashing the cameras in his kilt on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, his premature release from the A&M record label contract and his declaration of personal bankruptcy, MacIsaac becomes defensive:

"You don't have to get hit in the head with a brick to think it's good music. You like it or you don't. As far as the rest of the stuff goes, if I get asked questions…[and] the brick sh**house is where the conversation leads to, where it's negative and inconsequential to whatever the record is about…then that happens around me because I'm free to being open."

MacIsaac continues, "I got a major record label again…and if people will buy it, great."

The frank, free-spirited musician is passionate about a variety of subjects.

In Captain America, a song on MacIsaac's new CD, he sings, "Oh boy, I love America. The home of the brave."

"Shore is, isn't it?" he says when asked about the lyrics. "When I wrote the song I think I might have had a little, tiny hint of irony in there."

The irony, he says, stems from another of the song's lyrics that suggests the chocolate eclair is a symbol of Canadian identity.

"Canada has more of a mystery about itself than America."

For the past three years, MacIsaac has been in a relationship with a Russian man. The couple now live together in Toronto. As a result, Russian culture and pop music have begun to influence MacIsaac's own artistic endeavours.

"I listen to a lot of radio stations from the Internet. I'll be listening to it…and saying 'Is it cool enough? Is it original enough? Does it not sound American enough? Does it sound American enough?'"

Track number five on the new album is directly influenced by Russian pop music. "I put my own lyrics to it. [But] that's directly from something that was on the radio there."

MacIsaac says being gay is "the most important thing that there is for me. It's the shift key, it's the enter key, it's the delete key. It's all of the above."

Growing up in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, wasn't easy for a gay boy. "The teaching I grew up with was one of a Catholic family and a Catholic community—and confession and things that don't lead to anything but detriment for children. [Myself] being one of them who was deterred from many things…as a gay child in a [world that wasn't tolerant of gays]."

But MacIsaac thinks that the situation is better for gay and lesbian kids in Cape Breton and elsewhere in Canada and "the civilized cultures that have the Internet. But, it's not gonna change in small village communities in any part of the world. There'll still be attitude adjustments necessary for maybe decades or hundreds of years."

This is especially true in "places that have a strong Christian morality, like out west."

He also considers Stockwell Day, the Alberta Legislature and the Canadian Alliance examples of things that "are ruining the mentality of their kids and their grandkids who are growing up thinking to be far-right Christian is a good thing. That's why I come [out west] to play; to freak people out, at this point. I play my music and do a professional gig ... And then if [people] leave and had a good time they can say, 'Well, why was I freaked out in the first place?'"

MacIsaac believes his music is "worthy of anybody's religion or sexuality or ethnic background."

Currently touring once again, MacIsaac can be seen at various venues throughout the nation in the coming months. ▼

Tyler Hopson, a recent graduate of the University of Regina, has just completed a year-long stint as Arts & Entertainment Editor at that school's student newspaper. He will soon be relocating to Vancouver, where he will be working toward a Master of Journalism degree at the University of British Columbia.

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Calgary Cares Reception

JACK SINGER

(left) Chicken 'Hawk
A hair-raising hottie pauses to catch his breath during the post-show festivities.

(left)Camera Crew
Obviously enjoying the proceeedings are (from left) Ron, Dr. Stephen Guy-Bray and *Outlooks* fashion writer Steven Rozon. A good time had by all? Just look at those faces!

(above) Why the Hell Did Beyoncé Get the Role?!
A Calgary Cares performer does her best "Foxxy Cleopatra" for the cameras on hand.

(left) Spinster
DJ Rocky was on hand to whip the capacity crowd into a frenzy following the show.

(right) Masterpiece
Greg graciously allowed his torso to be used to express one of the body painter's flights of fancy... and we *do* appreciate the effort, now, don't we?

(left) Hammer Time!
Outlooks February cover model (and all-round nice guy) Rick Hammersmith with friend Eddie at the reception.

(above) Good Things Come in Threes
(from left) Model Greg, GLCSA Executive Director Corey Wyness and model Rod make for a tantalizing trio.

(right) A Sari Sight
Fred (left) and Brad snuggle up to a ravishing Ravi in hopes that some of her heavy-duty glamour might rub off on them!

(above) Lucky Penny
SHARP Foundation Executive Director Penny Archer (right) finds pal Colleen Clancy in the crush of post-performance revellers.

Queen's Jubilee Medal Presentation

BESWICK HOUSE

(left) Farewell Honour
A medal was presented posthumously to Walter Beswick, founder of the SHARP Foundation, for his work with HIV/AIDS. On hand to accept the award from Gerry McConnery were Walter's sister Karen (left) and his mother Joyce.

Doug's Going Away

MONEY-PENNIE S

(above) Look at My Box!
Boo and Lorrie (far right) present Doug with a wee token of their esteem before he heads out into the great "known".

(right) Boo-Boo Bye-Bye
Did the Teletubbies write this caption?! Boo shows Doug how dearly he will be missed on the eve of his departure.

(left)Winging It
Shaun was on hand to heat things up a bit—in the kitchen, at least—keeping everyone full of wings and other late night nibbly bits.

Planning an event in Calgary?
Contact Kevin or Dean at
(403) 228-1157 and he'll see about covering it
in Out & About.
Photos By: Kevin P

Thursday Pm

DEVO GALLERY

(right) A Pensive and Painterly Pose
Artist Scott Clark pauses to reflect—and ham it up—in front of some of his works at a special opening reception in Devonian Gardens.

Relocation Grand Opening

RAINBOW PRIDE RESOURCE CENTRE

(right) Come and Get It!
Proprietor Kevin Marriott proudly claims his spot in a new space closer to all the Beltline/Uptown 17 action. Be sure to drop in (up, actually) to wish him well.

OUTLOOKS reviews

CD

By David Crosson

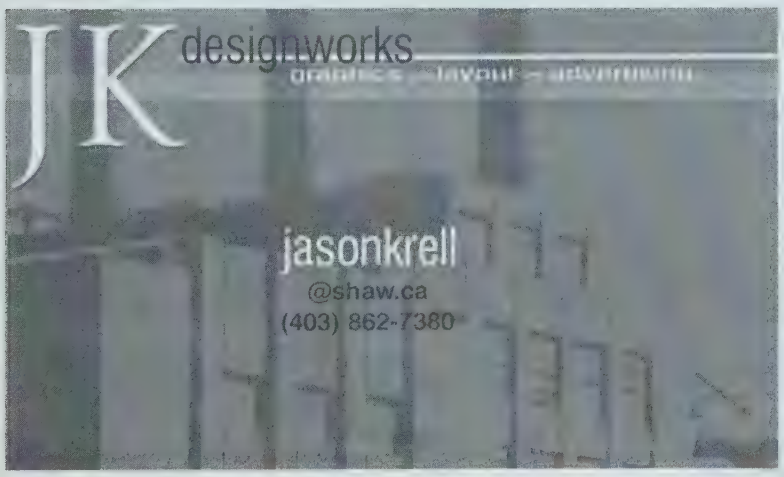
Title: Disco Fever
From: Universal Music
Released: 2002

Call me a big fag but I truly believe that disco is *the* theme music of home renovation projects—and if it isn't official then it should be. (L.A. punk rock circa 1982 is perfect for demolition work but when it comes to actually *creating* something, disco is the way to go.) Recently, as I was about to embark on a major home improvement project, I decided that the hodge-podge of vinyl, mix tapes and CDs purchased at various Roger's Pass gas stations just wouldn't cut it. No, the living room facelift would require something far more glamourous for the task at hand; a winter's worth of cabin fever and HGTV viewing had "inspired" me to install a brick wall along sixteen feet of my main space—no easy feat. I was not daunted, however, because there's just something about up-tempo, mindless music that make any task seem far less arduous.

After collecting all that I would need from the brickworks, I headed to A&B Sound in search of the ultimate disco CD. And I found it. For young 'uns and old queens alike, *Disco Fever* is a fantastic collection of songs guaranteed to get anyone from A to Z in a home renovation project. Recorded on two disks and housed in a fluorescent pink case (a beacon of fabulousness among the blacks and greys favoured for CD covers by most of today's artists) this compilation not only captures the music of a disco but the feel of one as well. The cuts are structured as though being played by a DJ: a run of favourites; a few slow songs to grab some ass or get drinks; a crowd-pleaser or two; then a few more slow songs. The result is a disco of absolute authenticity right in your very own home—which is a good thing when your domicile looks like Chemical Ali's place on the afternoon of April 5.

The other major point in favour with *Disco Fever* is song selection. To be sure, all the must-haves and classics are here (I Will Survive, We Are Family, YMCA, It's Raining Men, Disco Inferno); however, so too are the not-so-classics (Young Hearts Run Free, If I Can't Have You, Daddy Cool) and even some of the fabulously obscure. Take, for example, Odyssey's Going Back to My Roots, Can You Feel the Force by The Real Thing or Tina Charles' I Love to Love ("I love to love, but my baby just loves to dance"—Hey, Tina, move on: your boyfriend sounds like a *big homo*!).

Even though the living room is done, I am now actually planning other renos based on disco CD purchases. And, true to expectation, the kind of brick laying that would kill an Egyptian slave did not seem so difficult when underscored by bass, trumpet, tambourine and keyboard... not to mention the wail of divas. In my search I came across many great compilations, but *Disco Fever* will remain my first and best choice. If you're looking to start or build your disco CD collection, or even need inspiration to get all *Designer Guys* on your place, this is the collection to do it with.



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By Roy Heale

In Canada, we're leading the Americans and moving closer towards the legal recognition of gay relationships. It doesn't matter if we call it marriage or come up with a special name for same-sex unions, one thing is for sure: the honeymoon is going to be really important. After all, it's been a long time coming! We will likely invent a fashionable name like "The Morning After Jet-away" or some such thing, just to put a different—and gay—stamp on it! No matter what the term, a romantic post-nuptials spot will be the order of the day and I cannot imagine a better-suited getaway than Russian River. This small resort town with a distinctive gay flair is nestled in the beautiful natural surroundings of Redwood Country amongst the Northern California Sonoma Vineyards—even the Korbel champagne winery is right there to help you celebrate your new union with a toast!

The Russian River tourist region is centred around the small, unhurried town of Guernville, California, which is very easy to find after just under a two-hour drive from San Francisco airport. This gay holiday destination has remained unspoiled for the last decade and, despite the abundance of the gay dollar, it has not been over commercialized (as is often the case with other popular gay summer resorts). The reason for this is a local bylaw that doesn't allow any new businesses to locate here unless they assume an existing location. Also, every business must be independent—no franchises or chain stores are allowed. So, if you're the kind of traveller who has a big Mac attack when you're away from home, then this unspoiled gem is *not* for you! However, for the rest of us, there could not be a more romantic spot to enjoy—particularly on America's west coast.

The townsite is only about four square blocks and all the gay accommodation is located in town or within walking distance from Main Street. This is the hub for coffee shops, shopping, dining and bars, as well as a convenient twenty-four-hour Safeway for your emergency needs at any time (OK, there is *one* exception to the "no chain stores" rule!). For a small community, it offers everything for a perfect gay honeymoon.

In addition, the Armstrong Woods are just a five-minute drive from here and provide nature trails amongst the redwoods—perfect for a day hike and outdoor summer picnic in the shade of the tallest trees you've ever seen. Winding all through the region is the Russian River, with several beaches for summer pleasure; or, if you prefer, a fifteen-minute drive will take you to the rugged west coast and Pacific Ocean. A few hours' drive will give you the most spectacular roller coaster ride as the shoreline highway takes you from sea to sky. The drive is fun but it's the natural vista of rocky coves, white surf, bright blue sky and aqua ocean that will leave you breathless. A two-hour drive along the Sonoma Coast will take you to Sea Ranch for lunch, where the rich and famous from San Francisco spend their summers. If you feel like a special honeymoon treat, then consider a night at the Sea Ranch Lodge or the Timber Cove Inn, perched atop a peninsula where the mountains reach the sea.

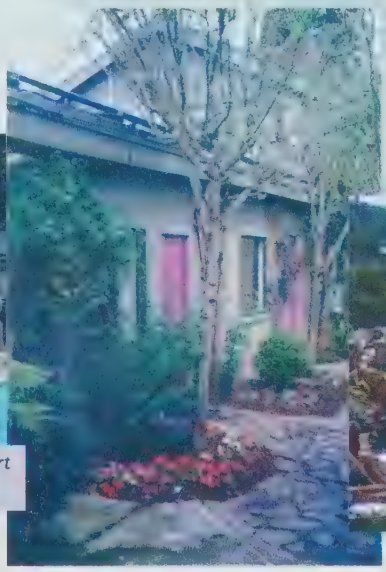
Back in Guernville, gay accommodation is available in a wide range of styles and prices. From small B&Bs and cozy motels to private resorts and large estates that lead down to the River, the variety and budget scale is vast. My favourite is the Russian River Resort, which features twenty-three deluxe guest rooms, a large swimming pool, sundecks, an intimate bar, piano lounge and excellent restaurant. The atmosphere is friendly and the prices begin at USD$70 per night, depending on the time of year and day of the week. Some of the rooms have wood-burning stoves for that extra touch of romance. Here you'll find locals and tourists spending time together in a comfortable, relaxed setting. If you're travelling with a pet dog then this is the place for you—it is so dog friendly that the snack vending machine includes canine treats! It truly feels like a home away from home.

Located on the river is a very large complex called Fifes Guest Ranch, which claims the title "The Nation's Largest Gay Resort". With fifty country cabins and nearly 100 campsites, a restaurant, bar, pool, sundecks and gym, this is a resort with plenty of action.

Perched high upon a mountaintop, Highlands Resort is a secluded retreat on three wooded acres, a short walk from town. If you're not sure of what you want or can afford, then call the Russian River Concierge, who will help find the

continued opposite

The Russian River Resort



from previous

The Fifes Resort

right resort or private home for rent to suit your budget and needs.

The nightlife here is convenient, as restaurant and bars are mostly located on Main Street or within a block or two of it. This makes it a breeze to go from dinner to bar-hopping and then home again without any worry of driving or finding a taxi. Walking is a way of life here and soon you'll find yourself enjoying the convenience. The main bars are the Rainbow Cattle Co., Russian River Eagle, Club Fab, and the piano and poolside bars at the Russian River Resort. Each one provides a different atmosphere to suit every couple's pleasure… or singles out to find that special vacation romance.

The staff at all the hotels are experts when it comes to the local scene and will provide you with enough information to make you feel at home very quickly in this woodland paradise. Although you need a car to get there and to enjoy the neighbouring countryside, a stroll around town can be invigorating and relaxing as well.

In this unspoiled countryside and gay-friendly town, you and your new spouse can stroll holding hands and truly feel as though you've found Heaven on earth. Mother Nature worked extra hard in this region and (so far) it has remained relatively unspoiled by human intervention. If you decide to investigate all that Russian River has to offer, it will be a vacation filled with memories to last throughout your relationship—not to mention provide a "traditional" start for the rest of your lives together. No matter where you hold your ceremony, this year 'round resort paradise is waiting to provide a perfect getaway for everyone. ▼

Along the north coast on the way to Sea Ranch

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Highlands Resort: (707) 869-0333 or visit www.highlandsresort.com
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Psst Hugh's doing Peter!

By Benjamin Peters

Australian actor Hugh Jackman

Aussie actor Hugh Jackman knows all about animal attraction. As Wolverine, the troubled mutant of *X-Men* and its sequel *X2*, he has attracted an international fan base of men as well as women.

With no shortage of hair on his head, face, chest and legs, Jackman is a rarity in Hollywood, where actors spend as much time waxing their bodies as they do memorizing lines.

"I have found that the older a person is the more they like hairy men, so my fan base is skewed a bit older," says Jackman, adding that "all the hair on Wolverine in *X2* is mine.

"For the first movie, I arrived on the set in Toronto with no time to grow it myself. "I had been starring in *Oklahoma!* in London, so they had to add hair extensions and make me some facial hair. It was hilarious when I'd wash up after a day on the set and go out anywhere. I looked like I belonged in the '60s."

The 1960s is where Jackman is going to find himself, come October: he will be the star of the Broadway musical *The Boy From Oz* about the flamboyant life and death of Australian singer, composer and pianist Peter Allen.

Allen was born in New South Wales on February 10, 1944. By the time he was a teenager, he was touring Asia as a musical performer. He was spotted by Judy Garland, who brought him to New York and turned him into the opening act for her concerts.

She also married him off to her daughter Liza Minelli in 1967. The pair remained married until 1972 when it became clear to one and all that Allen was gay.

He would die of complications from AIDS in 1992 at the age of forty-eight.

There are those who feel Jackman is making a serious mistake taking on this project and the role just when his career is in hyperdrive.

"*The Boy From Oz* is the first Australian musical to make it to Broadway and I see it as a great honour to be asked to headline it," he says.

Looking sharp as Wolverine in X2

As far as playing a gay character is concerned, Jackman is more amused than wary:

"It's definitely going to be a shock for fans of the *X-Men* movies if they come to the play expecting to see some incarnation of Wolverine—I'll be up there in gold lamé pants kissing guys right and left!"

He estimates there are as many as twenty-five gay lip-locks in *The Boy From Oz*.

"We had a workshop recently in which the only two straight guys were myself and the actor who plays my boyfriend. The director thought we might be nervous so he had all the chorus guys kiss me," Jackman recalls. "After that, locking lips with guys is no big deal."

Well, maybe not for Jackman.

There is a scene in *X2* in which Wolverine believes he is having sex with all the major female characters in the film. "That was a great day at the office!" Jackman laughs. "Each of the actresses would come in, strip down and mount me."

Director Bryan Singer would show each actress how they had to get into position so it would be a seamless transfer from one to the other.

"The last time Bryan got over top of me to demonstrate how he wanted the scene to look, I grabbed him and planted a very long, hard kiss on his lips," he recalls.

"Poor Bryan was shocked. He struggled to get away. The cameramen caught it on tape so the kiss will probably find its way to the DVD!"

Jackman has been taking his role in *The Boy From Oz* seriously. When Minnelli was performing in New York he sent her a note asking if he could meet with her after catching a performance.

"Liza was great. I hadn't even sat down when she started regaling me with anecdotes. She insists that when she married Peter neither of them knew he was gay. It was something they discovered together," he says. "She had only great things to say about Peter."

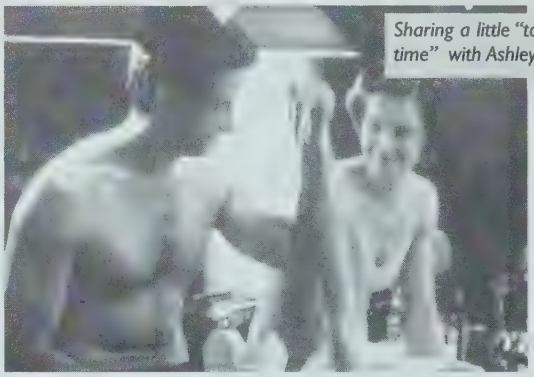
One of the stories that impressed Jackman the most took place minutes before one of Liza's concerts:

"Judy came backstage and told Liza she looked dreadful in the outfit she'd selected and insisted she change instantly. Peter told Garland she was never to talk to Liza like that again. Liza said standing up to Judy was one of the most gallant things anyone could have done for her at the stage in her life."

Jackman is not worried that he looks nothing like Allen but says he feels "sorry for the actresses who will be playing Judy and Liza. Not many people remember what Peter looked like but they'll all know what those incredible women looked like. They're icons for musical theatre people."

One thing the young Aussie is certainly not worried about is singing and dancing up a storm on stage—he won accolades for his roles in the Australian national productions of *Beauty and the Beast* and *Sunset Boulevard*. Of his show-stopping performance in *Oklahoma!*, one reporter noted that "when Jackman strides bare-chested on stage, men, women and animals melt. He puts the sex back into sex symbol."

Movie audiences almost got a chance to glimpse more of that famous body: the original opening for *X2* would have seen him running naked through a forest and diving into a lake.



Sharing a little "torso time" with Ashley Judd

"I have no problems with nudity. What I have problems with is freezing temperatures," Jackman says. "We were meant to film that scene in the Kananaskis. The day Bryan wanted to shoot it, it was minus 10 degrees with howling winds. I warned Bryan if I tried the shot there would be major shrinkage and I would likely die of pneumonia."

Jackman says none of his friends from Down Under have teased him about playing a wolf-man in the X-Men movies. "The only time my mates laughed was when I told them I would be playing Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*," he recalls. "No one had ever heard me sing—and certainly not in public—so they said there was no way they were going to pay good money for something like that. I actually had to pay for their seats opening night."

People will be paying close to $200 to see Jackman in *The Boy From Oz*. Oh, yes—as far as all that gay smooching and swishing around goes, it should be noted that he has been happily married to actress Deborra-Lee Furness for seven years. They have a three-year-old adopted son Oscar.

"My life is truly blessed," Jackman says of his current state of affairs. "I'm thrilled with every aspect of it." ▼

Benjamin Peters covers arts and entertainment for magazines throughout Canada and Britian.

Opening Night Disco Lush VPS Benefit

NUMBERS

(above) A Lush Environment
Everyone turned out for the launch evening of the Vancouver Pride Society benefit; if this event is any indication, the 25th anniversary of Pride in Vancouver will be quite memorable.

(below) No Party Would Be Complete Without 'em
The ubiquitous Eddie 'n' Pats make an appearance to bring a little extra glamour to the proceedings. Mischa Bird and friend *are* amused.

Shooting Stars Reception

OASIS

(right) Big Money
Dr. Peter Foundation President Mark Virgin (left) accepts a cheque for $5000 from Shooting Stars Foundation President Roger Millen, as Maxine Davis looks on. Shooting Stars donated $25,000 in total to charities that included McLaren House and the Dr. Peter Foundation.

Hedwig and the Angry Inch Cast Party

LOTUS SOUND LOUNGE

(left) Theataaaah People
Kevin McEwan and Vancouver's second-most famous diva (on this particular night), Jamie Lee Hamilton.

(right) No Wigs Here!
Stage manager Guy Fauchon (left) with the "lady of the hour", Greg Armstrong-Morris—AKA Hedwig (pictured right)

(left) Queen Scene? Queens Seen?
Who cares? The important thing is that they all turned out to celebrate a great cause. Pictured (from left) are Robin Graves, Mandy Kamp, Devana DeMille, Carlotta Gurl (lower) and Willi Taylor.

(right) "Out" in Support of a Good Cause
On hand to celebrate Shooting Stars philanthropy were Devana DeMille and Oasis Manager James Steck.

Stardom 8 Girls and a Guy Benefit for The Centre

ROUNDHOUSE

(left) Could We Have the Bill, Please
You got him—or is that *her*? Doesn't matter, we're always glad to see our pal Bill Monroe, on hand to host(ess) the evening's entertainment.

Planning an event in Vancouver? Contact Barry at (604) 685-1377 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. Photos By: Barry Piersdorff.

Action

WORLD

(left) Lights, Camera, Aaaaaction!
Out in force to celebrate the launch of their new event—Action at World—are (from left) Jean, Eric and Alex.

(below) Hey L'Oréal—*These* Are Your Spokesmodels!
A celebration of extreme glamour in aid of The Centre; (from left) Carlotta Gurl, Justine Tyme and Mandy Kamp.

(above)Star Power
"The guy" and a few of "the girls" pause from delivering their powerhouse performances; (from left) Dennis Simpson, Lovie Eli, Mandy Kamp and Sybil Thrasher.

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To be or not to be: Shakespeare's story

By Gerrard MacMullin

Who would have guessed that a transsexual lesbian would become a PR asset for a Canadian police force?

That unlikely turn of events is happening in Vancouver, thanks to Detective Roz Shakespeare, Canada's only out, active duty transsexual cop. Shakespeare co-ordinates GLBT programs from a tiny office in the heart of the city's gay village. Roz—who began her career as Roger—has strongly connected with the community and attracted plenty of good press.

"Nobody ever, ever knew that I was questioning my gender—not even my first wife"
-Roz Shakespeare

The positive reviews couldn't come at a better time for the Vancouver Police Department, who were facing questions about their seriousness in dealing with hate crime in the city's West End. That's part of an image problem which extends far beyond the gay community. There are persistent allegations of brutality—in the latest incident, half a dozen officers were charged in the alleged beating of three men in Stanley Park. And there's lingering criticism that the VPD bungled the investigation into the disappearance of sixty-three women here—Canada's worst ever serial murder case.

Despite her personal battles, Shakespeare isn't about to criticize the department.

"We can sit down as members of our organization and slag it, but the minute somebody outside starts to slag it, we rally round the flag," she says.

Sipping tea at the rear of a noisy café in the heart of Vancouver's gay village, Shakespeare doesn't look much like a cop. She's wearing a smart red sweater over basic black, with a delicate heart-shaped pendant around her neck. But the matronly image quickly evaporates as she chats about how she tried to bury her softer side.

"Being a police officer, wearing the uniform, putting on the body armour, loading that semi-automatic revolver every day was a way of confirming that hyper-masculinity for me," she recalls.

Roger was a tough, reliable cop, the twice-married father of three, who loved cars and racing, and was smart enough to move up through the ranks, eventually becoming a detective.

"Nobody ever, ever, knew that I was questioning my gender—not even my first wife. I just never told anybody about it; it was all locked in the basement," she says.

But nothing could lock out the relentless pressure of living an illusion.

"The psychiatrists call it incongruence. I describe it as being that little bit out of sync, as if you were trying to read with somebody else's glasses," Shakespeare continues. "I felt that way all my life...I always kept everybody at arm's length—if they got too close they might find out this horrible secret."

The turning point came after the breakup of marriage number two, as the struggle to recognize his true identity took on a new urgency. Roger was, at the time, out of town on assignment with a special surveillance unit. He was holed up in a hotel room with all the books he could find on transsexualism.

"I think the most difficult part of this for me was accepting who I was. For years and years I'd always acknowledged I was a cross-dresser or transvestite, [but] for me to acknowledge anything more than that was *way* too scary."

Staying trapped, however, was even scarier. And so Roz was conceived.

What followed were the first appointments at Vancouver General Hospital Gender Clinic, the consultations and assessments, the hormones, the electrolysis, long and painful surgery, and re-socialization.

"It took on a life of its own. And yeah, there were traumatic days...days when I really struggled with moving to the next level of this thing," she says. "I walked around with a prescription for hormones in my wallet for four days, because once I took that first hormone there [was] no going back."

Then there was the challenge of turning up at work dressed as a woman. Hardly a picnic—particularly when your workplace happens to be police headquarters.

"Reactions were all over the map. Some people suggested I should leave the Police Department and go work for another department. Somebody said I should quit and go to another town and get this all over with," Shakespeare recalls.

Along with the critics, there were the supporters, and finally the realization that the only opinion that really counted was her own.

"None of these people asked me for my feelings on any of the choices they made about their lives—what colour car they should get, or who they should marry or what church they should belong to. It was none of their business what *I* chose to do with my life. That's what kept me going," she says.

Detective Roz Shakespeare, of the Vancouver Police Department

When Aaron Webster was beaten to death near a gay cruising area at Stanley Park in 2001, Shakespeare was on sick leave, and could have remained there until retirement. But the murder motivated her to get off the couch and do something.

"I just wanted to get more involved in my community after that. Wherever Aaron is today I think he would be proud and pleased to know that so many great things have happened as the result of his untimely death. The community is stronger, more vocal [and] more together on preventing bashings."

Ironically, Shakespeare is being pushed into retirement again: as many as 250 senior police officers may leave by the fall, thanks to changes that threaten to reduce their pensions by hundreds of dollars a month.

Shakespeare hopes she'll be able to return after retirement to continue her work in the West End, practicing her simple philosophy: "I think we all want to be safe and we all want to be treated with dignity and respect."

The West End's respect for the new and improved Shakespeare was evident when she was introduced a recent Prideline event to some of the evening's warmest applause.

"It just amazed me, it surprised me. I guess for the first time in my life I'm feeling a little vulnerable," she explains, as tears well in her eyes. "There are moments when I have a good cry," she admits, "I just get overwhelmed with people's generosity and kindness. ▼

Gerard MacMullin is a writer/broadcaster who lives in Vancouver's West End.

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Read Out on track

By John Ayres

I don't think over the course of his life Mathieu Chantelois will ever be widely known as a "bookish" sort of person. Charismatic, yes; exuberant, certainly. But bookish—that's a resounding *no*. And I suspect this is precisely the reason he was chosen to host the new chat series *Read Out*, a recent addition to PrideVision TV's spring roster.

Reading has always been a wonderful escape for me, one of my most favoured pastimes (when I can find the time). Watching people discuss books and reading on television, however, has always been something that has driven me nuts. (No offense, Oprah, but I did a little "happy dance" when you first phased out that damned club of yours.) Don't get me wrong: I'm not referring to the lively discussions that can occur in a book club or happen spontaneously when you discover someone else is reading—or has read—one of your favourite titles. Cross-media explorations of books, however, have always left me cold, perhaps because they lack the intimacy and immediacy that makes book clubs and book banter so enjoyable. Or so I thought. *Read Out* may be the one factor that changes my mind completely, or at least put a dent in my prejudice.

Host Chantelois, best known as one of the original "cast" members of U8TV's *The Lofters* and ringmaster of the resulting *So Gay TV*, brings a spark to the proceedings that I did not think was possible in a short-format literary discussion show. Then again, perhaps the saving grace of *Read Out* is the fact that it does not limit itself to literary discussions; rather, authors as noted for their personalities as for their works are engaged in conversation, some of it industry-based, some of it personal. In the debut episode, the featured guest was Tom Culligan, co-founder of the Second Cup coffee chain and author of *Teacups and Sticky Buns*, a book written to honour the memory of his mother. For those who have had any exposure to Culligan at all in the past, it is obvious that he could have easily overpowered a lesser host with the strength of his personality alone. In this instance, though, the discussion was light, fun and nicely balanced—in that two-thirds subject, one-third interviewer kind of way.

Like Brad Fraser on the now-defunct *Jawbreaker*, Chantelois proves that he can keep the ball in the air when it matters most: engaging a guest and driving the conversation forward. Sure, many viewers were unambiguous in their assessment of the young French-Canadian's hosting style in other projects: they either loved him or hated him. This time, however, Chantelois is different, "softer" even. Still present is the trademark exuberance and *joie de vivre* but it's tempered somewhat, reined-in perhaps by the fact that the show is not an exploration of the outer reaches of gay male sexuality. I adore French people in general and French boys in particular (dig back a ways and you'll find more than a few of my rels hiking up their skirts and fleeing to England in the midst of the Revolution), so perhaps my perception is a bit clouded. Nonetheless, few could argue that Chantelois is not absolutely professional and utterly charming in his new PrideVision capacity.

"Utterly charming:" Read Out *host Mathieu Chantelois*

It is too early to tell how enjoyable *Read Out* will be in the long run, as the success of such ventures rests squarely on the shoulders of talent bookers and guests. For the time being, though, the formula is right and the perspective is fresh—let's hope for the sake of Canadian gay publishing and Canadian gay television it continues. ▼

PRIDEVISION TV
OUTSIDE THE BOX

Read Out with host Mathieu Chantelois airs Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.(EST)/4:30 (PST)
For more information visit:
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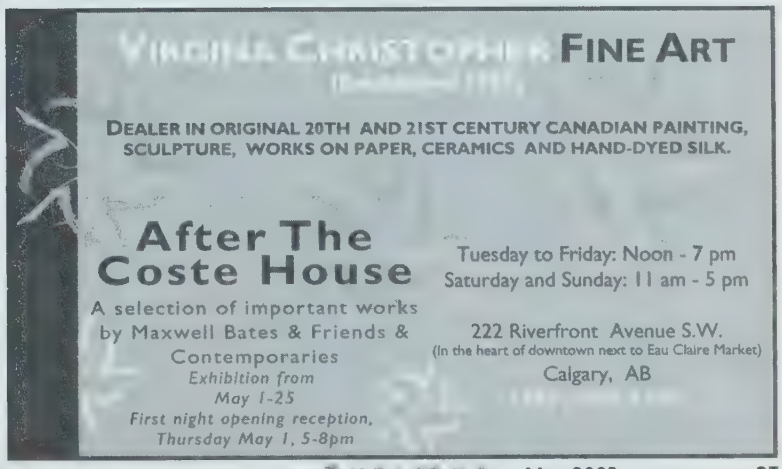


By Steven Rozon

Art investing 101

Art and fashion have been entwined for years so, in this "Home" issue of *Outlooks* we investigate how art gains value and therefore merits a place on the walls of a stylish home. Enquiring minds need to know. For years I have watched friends struggle with what to put on their walls. I, myself, have wanted original art for years but have chosen to invest in good shoes instead. They haven't gone up in value at all. There are definite reasons why a piece has value—other than, of course, that you like it—which is always the most important one. I decided to ask an expert how to start collecting.

Rob Mabee

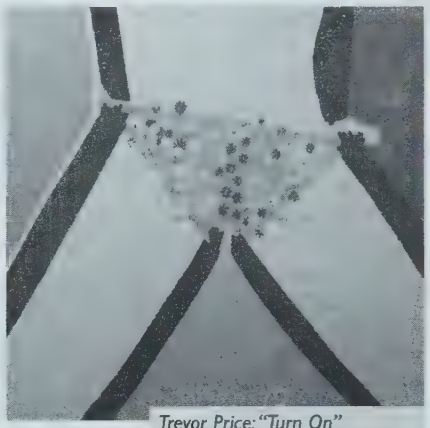
Rob Mabee is a graduate of The Alberta College of Art and Design (ACAD) and has been working with artists and crafts people as a dealer for over twelve years. He started selling art at The Croft Gallery in Calgary, which carried many different media. He has since moved on to work as a gallery director at a number of other galleries and has been involved with The Alberta Pottery Association as a past vice-present. He has also been involved with shows for both ACAD and The University of Calgary Fine Arts programs. His diversity has given him a great understanding of various media and their value. As you might guess, he is very passionate about art… and he's cute!

"If you are planning to start an art collection—and this can be done with very little money—you start thinking about what you like, first of all. Unlike any other investment market, art has immediate aesthetic value. You have to buy what you like. It's like buying a house: you have to live with it so it's important that you like it," Mabee says. "The collection should have a focus, something to tie it together. Think about the genre of work that you like, or the medium and use this to bring it together."

He goes on to explain how to begin collecting with a budget of only, say, $800 "I would suggest starting with buying a piece from an emerging artist. The value of this is better than buying a limited edition poster print, the only real value of which is the cost of the frame."

Most art galleries have payment plans available so for $50 to $100 a month you can own a nice piece within a year. For most of us that's only one night out less a month.

Documentation is important to provide you with the provenance or past history of the work and the artist's track record. "It should tell you if the piece has come directly from the artist's studio, a gallery, auction houses or dealers. The piece should also be signed," Mabee stresses. "It doesn't have to have the signature on the front, it can be signed on the back of the canvas". "Everyone has heard one of those stories out there that someone bought a piece for relatively next to nothing at a flea market or auction and later found out [it] was actually of great value. By having the documentation you will have a better idea of the piece's true value. Those stories are really very rare."

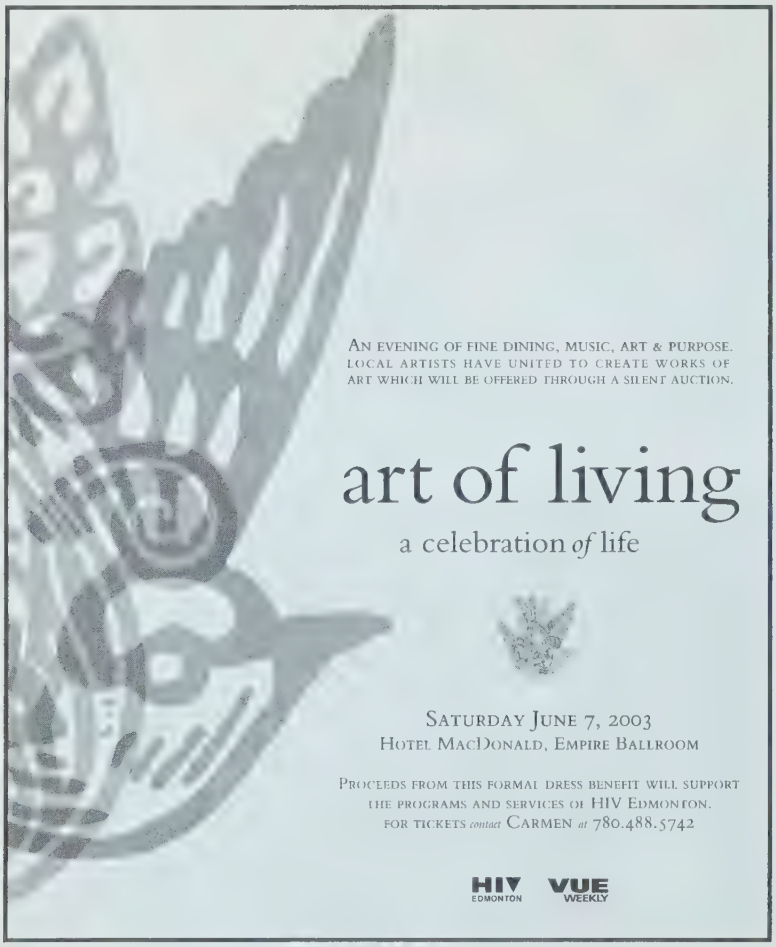


Trevor Price: "Turn On" Acrylic on Canvas

He also explains the importance of the condition of pieces like glass, pottery or sculpture. "The piece has to be in perfect shape, no chips or cracks or discolouration. Any mark will decrease the value."

When it comes to selection, Mabee cannot stress enough the importance of timing. "You want to buy the best art that you can afford by an emerging artist that you like. You don't want to buy an artist that is near the top because that's like buying something in the stock market that's already peaked. You want to find an artist that has an established value, a bit of a track record—a solo show or two—and might be in some good private or corporate collections. Someone who is climbing

continued opposite



from previous

towards the peak," he advises.

Mabee says that student shows can be a good place to start, although in such a setting you really need to buy the artwork because you like it. Until the artist is more established and has become known for their style or genre, you won't know if the piece has a higher value or not. "It's good to by a typical piece by an artist, what they're known for—like if you bought a Jackson Pollock still life, people would say 'That's a nice still life'. It wouldn't have the same value as a Jackson Pollock paint splattered canvas which people would recognize immediately".

Does art have trends like fashion? According to Mabee , it does follow trends. "Try to look at a piece and decide if it's fashion, is it truly decorative or if it does have artist merit. You want something with an edge so it is not purely decorative."

Timothy Okamura: "George In Black". Oil on canvas

Mabee then explains what to look for when evaluating a contemporary piece of art. "It's easy when it's historical work because there is precedence, there is provenance—everyone knows how much a Van Gogh is worth. So you look at a contemporary piece to see if it has staying power." He uses the three "P's" —past, present and personal—to assess contemporary art.

Past has to do with past techniques and genre of art. Is it historical? Does it take into consideration 3,000 years of work? Is it derivative, does it go too far into the past and become boring? What has the artist tried to do technically?

Present is about the present. Is the artist taking something from the past but still reflecting something about the present society? "This is where you have to watch out to see if the piece is too much about the present, if it's fleeting. All the best artists were reflecting their times but does [the piece in question] have artistic merit?" he says.

Val Roof: "Drop The Ball II" Oil on Canvas

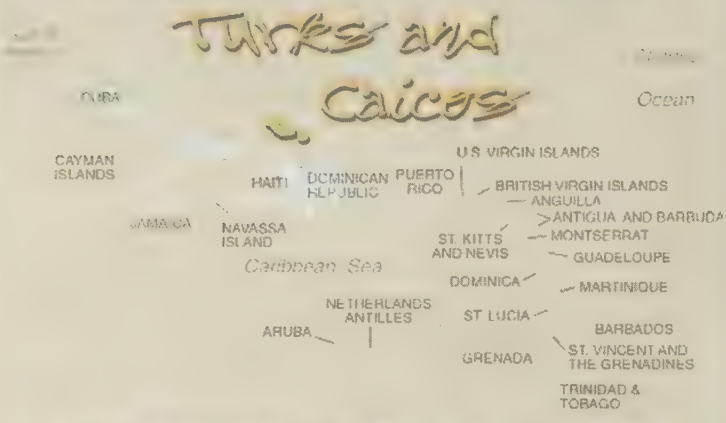
For the personal you need to ask if the artist's personal stamp or style has been placed on their work. "Not that it's just about that, though, or it can become a diary of the individual or an ego piece," Mabee says. "Does it reflect the artist's vision?" If the balance of these three elements is struck then Mabee feels you've found a good piece.

The hierarchy of works can affect value as well. "Whether it's right or wrong there is a hierarchy of work, so that an original work on paper that takes as much time as a canvas still has less value than a canvas. You can usually buy a work on paper for hundreds of dollars from a well known artist whose canvases would sell in the thousands" claims Mabee. This, he says, is also a good way to start your collection.

The most important thing to remember is that you must like the piece of work that you're considering buying. Go to different galleries and don't be afraid to ask questions. Dealers are always happy to show you pieces that are in the back or to help you find something in your price range. Just remember to be courteous and respectful as you are when shopping. There is a lot of talent out there so take the time to explore it. You don't have to resort to gluing leaves or spoons on a canvas like they do on *Trading Spaces*—there *are* other options. ▼

After working in the trenches of high-end retail for eleven years as a buyer and consultant, Steven Rozon has returned to university to pursue a degree in Communications.

Come join us for GAY WEEK in



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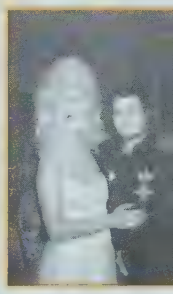

PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY OUTLOOKS STAF & FRED UDEY

CALGARY'S NEWEST EMPEROR & EMPRESS
MARTY MOJO STEVENS & BIANCA LABOUCHE

The temperature will rise this May when the Sun and Mercury both square Neptune and Mars and strongly urge us to check the rearview mirror before we exceed the speed limit. Keep an especially watchful eye on what matters most throughout the month when our desires can lead us to wasteful, slothful, mis-directed action. Going my way, hon?

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Rainbow Rambos are apt to go off half-cocked in their Wilde pursuit of happiness. Merry May will have you overspending and racing around with the wrong crowd. Oh, good for you compadre—let loose and live a little. By the end of the month, you will find that words will simply not suffice; use your mouth for more productive pursuits and don't breathe a word...

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

If you find that your best laid professional plans lay an egg, cut yourself some slack this May and slack off where the turmoil can't find you. Don't start new projects or get going in some new, seemingly exciting direction. This month, Neptune, the planet of delusions will have you building corporate castles in the sky. Anyone home, queer Bull? Guess not.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Life will become a farce, especially when foggy Neptune pokes and prods three of your personal planets this May. Pink Twins will have a bit of static on the psychic line and imagine all sorts of pleasant (but bizarre) scenarios. Some of your more fanciful excursions will become detours, so stay in the right lane while May races along. By the summer, you'll be able to accelerate *beyond* your speed limit.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Rainbow Crabs may get their claws caught in the nookie jar this May as the difference between friends and lovers blurs. Fuzzy Neptune will fog your common sense and randy Mars will goad you to take action—*any* action to scratch that deep low-down itch! Ah, but will they give you cab fare in the morning? Will you even last until the morning? Don't bet on it, bud!

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

You will dream of corporate dominance and pour on the sweat equity this May, but late nights at the office will have your significant other significantly miffed. Or will you even notice, proud Lion? Neptune will dream on and generate magnificent "what ifs" to your diffident "so whats?" Be sure to eat your dinner at home, unless you eventually want to tuck into frozen just desserts.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Although you dream of faraway getaways, the planets will have you tied to your desk this May. Poor queer Virgins will be reduced to sunning by their desk lamps and sticking their toes in sandy kitty litter as they dream of South Beach. But don't worry, doll; the planets will reward all serfs with a bit of respite. Heck, why not take an entire hour for lunch for a change?!

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Gay Libras will have more fun than Libras are supposed to have this May... or at least it'll seem that way as Sun squares delusional Neptune and active Mars. You'll go off on wild tangents that could get you into all sorts of hot water (think hot tubs). But all play and no work will leave you a dissipated old thing at the end of the month. Keep that youthful glow by looking before you leap. Splat!

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Neptune and Mars will have a way of upsetting the applecart of domestic bliss this month as around-the-home projects take up more and more of your quality time. Queer Scorps won't quite seem able to achieve balance and could be pulled in two directions at once—or is that perhaps your thing?! Will you be able to get out from under? Do you really want to?!

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

If you suffer from "hoof in mouth" syndrome this May, chalk it up to the square between Neptune/Mars and the Sun. Gay Archers will be apt to say something to throw things off track and toss their credibility into question. This will be especially troublesome at work where your careful efforts could become confounded. So, what else is new? Piece of advice: Key West is *lovely* this time of year.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Practical pink Caps usually have a close handle on their funds but May will toss your hard earned bucks into the blender. Watch it spin, darlin'. Ditsy Neptune and rollicking Mars square the Sun this month and will whip you into a frenzy of fun, frolic and frittering as your fork it over. Can money buy happiness? Will you get what you pay for? Do you really care? Yippee!

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

There will be more than enough Wilde activity this May to keep Aqueerians fully entertained. And good thing, too: the Sun squares Neptune and Mars and rampages through your home life. Acquaintances will make themselves at home in your home in every imaginable way and far-flung relatives will be added to the mix for flavour and excitement. I just love a parade... don't you?

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Is it your imagination or is May one of those months where you find that you talk to yourself more often? (Arguments should be kept to a minimum...) Your intuition will be spiked and the urge to go forth and make an impact on the world may just be *too* tempting to resist. But resist you must, Guppie: May will be the month to recharge, relax and reduce the stress. Meditate or medicate?!

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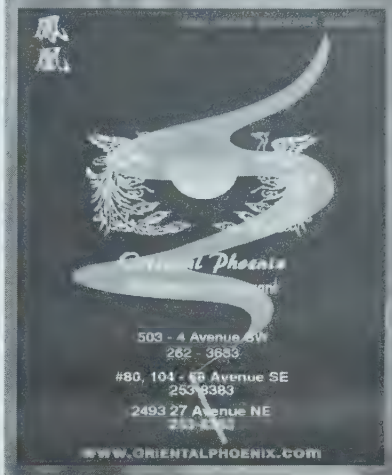

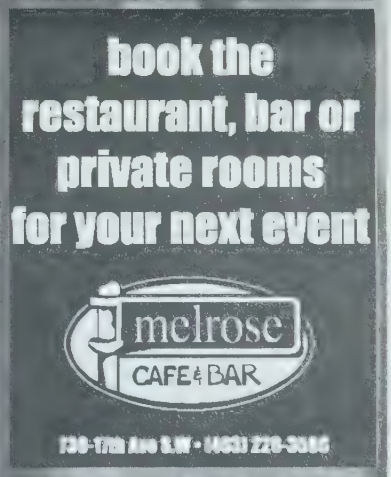

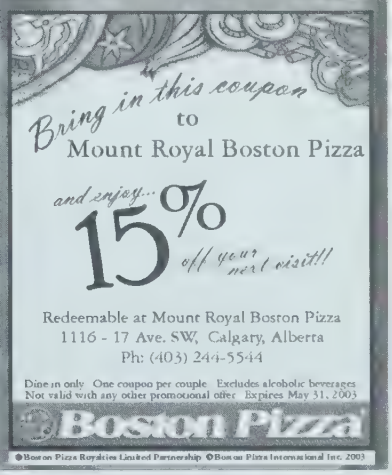

Inside Out rolling forward

By Rick Matthews

Thirteen is a lucky number for the 2003 installment of Inside Out—it's the number of years Toronto's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival has been attracting (and increasing) audiences interested in the "brightest and best" from around the globe. *Outlooks* had a chance to speak with Scott Ferguson, the busy executive director of the upcoming festival, which runs May 15-25.

Scott Ferguson, Executive Director of Toronto's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, Inside Out

Outlooks: What are some of the highlights of this year's festival?

Ferguson: Our opening night is *Leaving Metropolis*, directed by Brad Fraser. It's an adaptation of his play *Poor Superman* at the Paramount Theatre. And there will be a great launch party afterwards at The Courthouse.

Outlooks: What are some of the films you're really excited about?

Ferguson: Well, one of our main focuses this year is a focus on France, so we have a lot of French cinema…just because France is really turning out to be a breeding ground for new and established queer filmmakers. There is a lot of work coming out of there in all areas—there are a lot of movies produced for television, a lot of feature films. You've got people like François Ozon, who did *8 Women* last year, who has a quite a rich body of work. Our Centrepiece Gala is a film called *My Life on Ice* by Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau. It's a point of view film of this sixteen-year-old boy in a small French town who gets a video camera for his birthday and just starts filming all aspects of his life…just capturing every detail of life and it's just all about him coming to terms with his sexuality.

Outlooks: What are some of the other big films playing during the festival?

Ferguson: There's our closing night, which is a Spanish film called *My Mother Likes Women*, it played at the Berlin International Film Festival this year. It's all about a family—three daughters and their mother—and the mother makes the big announcement that she has a new person in her life and that person turns out to be a woman. It's about how the daughters react to their mother's new love affair and it's a great coming-of-age from a different point of view—a middle aged woman who explores her sexuality later in life.

Outlooks: It seems there's a huge international focus this year. What is driving that?

Ferguson: I just think a lot of quality work is coming out of Europe and Asia these days. You just see, in some place like Asia, where they haven't had the opportunity to make a lot of queer-themed work—and in some countries it's still illegal to do it—the door is opening in certain countries for filmmakers to expresses their sexuality and their individuality in their art. The Asian market has just exploded in the past couple of years with queer-themed work. And in Europe there is just such a strong industry there and the quality of work is just so high that a lot of the big, glossy 35mm films we have this year are European, they're not American.

Outlooks: Was there an active recruitment process to get this work? Was it a conscious decision to find these pieces or did the submissions just come to you?

A scene from My Life On Ice

Ferguson: A lot of it is us, we have a strong desire to have as wide reaching a focus as possible—we don't just want to focus on American films. We travel around looking for international work. Our director of programming went to France last year and that's when we decided to focus on France. We both went to Berlin…we found half a dozen films on screen there. Also, being in Toronto when the International Film Festival is here in September provides a big opportunity to find work that our audiences aren't seeing at that festival.

Outlooks: How many directors and people involved with these international films will be in attendance?

Ferguson: Well, we get a strong turnout from Canadian filmmakers. We've got about 120 Canadian works this year and I think about eighty Canadian directors. Internationally, every year we've seen an increase in the number of the directors attending. We'll probably be bringing in about twenty directors and helping to pay for them to come here to Toronto.

Outlooks: Where are the Canadian works coming from?

Ferguson: Just over half of them come from Toronto, about seventy features, as well Quebec is turning out quite a few pieces.

Outlooks: Is Toronto a hub for queer films?

Ferguson: Toronto has such a rich history, especially in video—during the '80s we were on the cutting edge of that—and we've got some really strong film schools in this city. We are a Toronto festival so we try to focus on our local artists as much as possible.

Outlooks: What do you find audiences are drawn more to, is it the short films or the longer feature or documentary pieces?

Ferguson: Traditionally it's been features. But in the last **continued opposite**

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couple of years our shorts programs have really increased in attendance. I think people are hesitant to go and see short work but I think the quality over the last couple of years has increased and the increased attendance reflects that. Personally, I'd rather see a program of eight to ten shorts. There might be a couple in that batch that I don't like, but there are bound to be a few more that I do, instead of going to see a ninety-minute film that I end up hating. At least there's at least a little more balance in there and you're seeing work that you'll probably never see again. We're lucky that more and more work is being seen on TV and at other festivals, but still there just isn't the opportunity. At least with feature films there's a chance it might end up on video or on Showcase or on some other TV station. But with shorts the chances are that if you don't see it at a festival you won't get a chance to see it again and there's just such good work out there.

Outlooks: What are you anticipating this year in terms of attendance?

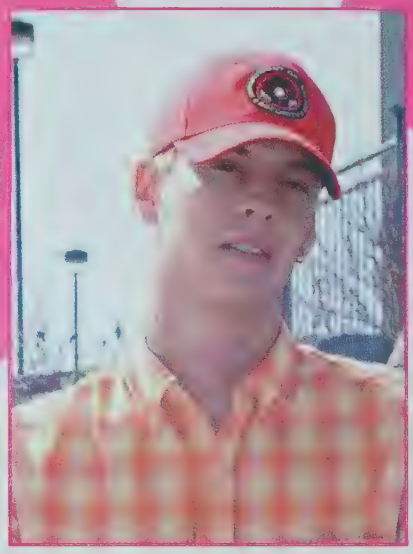
Ferguson: Probably a small increase. And this could be the last year we're in the theatres we're in. We're kind of reaching a plateau in terms of attendance where we screen. We're at about 22,000 and this year we'll probably hit around 25,000. We're getting close to maxing out our theatre space. We're now selling out every single seven and nine o'clock show we do. There just isn't a lot of room to expand our audience. I'd like to find theatres next year that have a larger seating capacity.

Outlooks: What do you enjoy most about being involved with the festival?

Ferguson: Just the opportunity to see so much work. And work that I probably wouldn't see otherwise, because as the executive director I'm supposed to watch every single film and when all the submissions are coming in you take home twenty films for the weekend and you just watch each one and you're stuck there. When you see something you're not expecting it just blows you away—it's just such a wonderful feeling that this work is being produced. Half the time it's on shoestring budgets with little funding or support from anywhere else. And the quality of work, you don't need a ten million dollar budget or be living in Hollywood to produce good work…it's just nice being part of something that means a lot to the community. ▼

Rick Mathews is a freelance journalist based in Toronto. With the aim of taking a true look at the diversity of the gay community he's done work for Fab and appeared as a guest-host on SoGayTV

DON'T YOU WISH? Lee

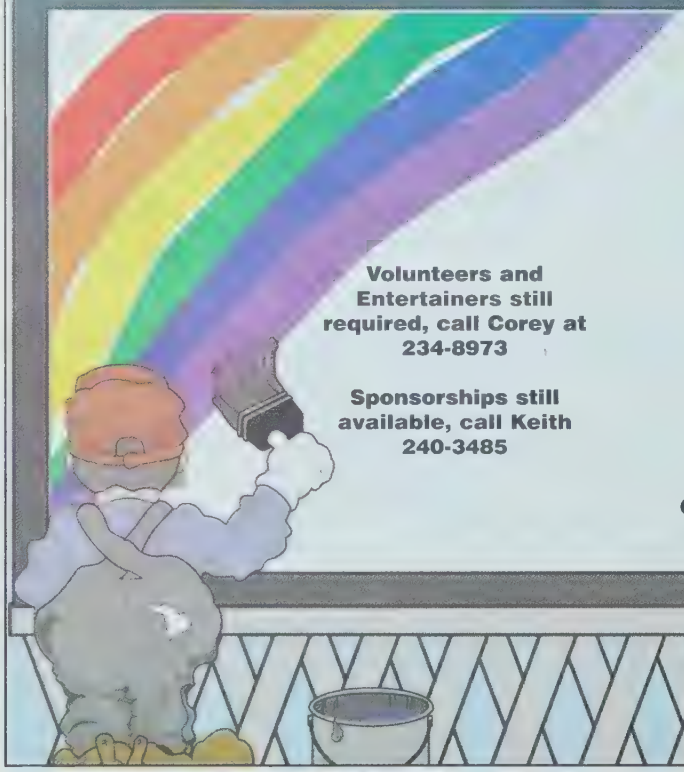


When he isn't working with autistic children, this 24-year old enjoys skateboarding and hanging out with his partner and their friends

Photographed by Patricio Del Rio
Skateboard courtesy of The Source on 17th

Pride Calgary

PRIDE WEEK 2003 June 7th - 15th



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Sunday June 8th, Connaught School (1121 12th Ave. SW.)
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Pride Dance,
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Foundations of style

By Karl Lohnes

Renovating and decorating a basement can offer a great alternative to moving when your household needs grow. Think: home office, media lounge, sewing studio, guest room or home gym—these are all rooms that are usually not planned for when buying a home. So why not go 'down-under' and think of how you can use your basement? Here are a few things to keep in mind when renovating and decorating:

1) Dig low. If renovating your basement, remember that your new lower level will feel substantial if the ceiling heights are higher. An eight-foot ceiling is unusually high in basements but can make a world of difference to the sense of space and airiness.

2) Warm it up. Mentally, going down stairs means going into a cooler and damper environment, so using warm-toned colours for the walls, and the natural tones of wood and sisal for the floors will help to make the lower level feel cozier.

3) Floor them! Be sure to choose flooring for your basement, which is suitable to the use of the space. For instance, a media room might have comfy, cushioned broadloom while a home gym or sewing studio might have rubber, tile or laminate flooring.

4) Lighten up! If your new lower level is going to be used for activities like work or play, try to allow as much natural light into the room as possible. Lowering window casements or adding a walkout glass door are great solutions. If privacy is an issue, use a frosted finish or glass blocks on the windows; they allow the daylight to come in while offering the privacy of a diffused view.

5) Keep it low. You can make a lower ceiling height appear taller by hanging artwork and keeping your furnishings lower than normal. Hang your artwork four to six inches lower than usual (make sure the middle of your artwork is about sixty-two to sixty-six inches off the floor) and keep chair and sofa back styles low. Add one or two vertical objects in the room (like tall bookcases, plants or long drapes) to stretch the eye upward to imply a tall room.

6) Reflect on it. Use mirrors only to reflect the natural light that comes into the basement. By placing a mirror on a ninety-degree wall to a window, you will actually bounce more light into the room and visually add another window to the space.

7) Don't forget storage. When planning your basement renovation, be sure to add a wall of closets or a storage room to your new space. This will help to de-clutter some of the cramped closets upstairs in the house and it's a great sound buffer between rooms in the basement.

8) Light options. When setting a mood in the basement, install pot lights in the ceiling. In a casual sitting environment, keep the lights out of your eyes; place the fixtures around the perimeter of the room, filling only the corners and doorways with light to create a relaxing environment. Dimmer switches can also help to create a relaxed mood. For a working environment, distribute the lights evenly over the ceiling to help illuminate the overall room and keep it bright during day or night.

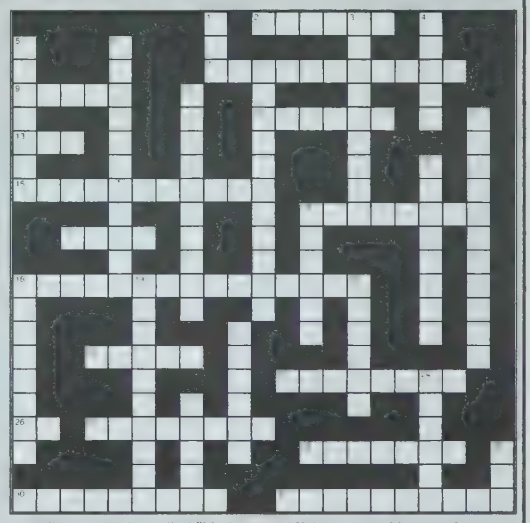
9) Make your basement rooms important! You've spent a lot of money on a fabulous new space, so try to decorate it to be as "important" as the upstairs of your house. Refrain from decorating with second hand furnishings and cast-aways unless they truly function in the new space.

10) Hire a contractor. Find someone who is experienced with renovating basements—there are many hidden factors that an experienced contractor learns from renovating basements over time. Digging and sealing, electrical and plumbing requirements, flooring options and humidity factors are all things that a professional's experience can help make work to turn your new lower level an important extension of your home. ▼

***Written by Karl Lohnes, Style Editor,* Style At Home *magazine and Co-host of HGTV's* This Small Space.**

QUEERWORD

clues & words by *Outlooks* staff
answers on page 41



Across

2) Location of *Outlooks*' current main archive
7) Emerging neighbourhood in downtown Calgary
9) An expert when it comes to investing in art
11) Judd, MacIsaac or flowery Laura
13) Very Successful GBLUR fundraiser: Divas at the _____
15) I Love to Love artist on *Disco Fever* CD
16) Cover model's main garment
17) Canadian "anti-diva" Carole or head of Catholic Church
18) AKA "The Nation's Largest Gay Resort"
22) Location of J. Fantastic's money-saving hell
23) The _____ Library of Canada now houses *Outlooks*
26) Hugh Jackman's Broadway project: *The Boy From* _____
27) The newly crowned Mr. Gio's in Winnipeg
28) Winnipeg Pride Committee Chair: Dennis _____
30) Chi Chi LaRue porno set in ancient Rome
31) Apollo's recent tournament & party weekend

Down

1) Name of this month's Don't You Wish? model
3) Name of hugh Jackman's character in *X-Men & X2*
4) R.Pearson of Edmonton wrote to this organization
5) This material is called "black gold" by gardeners
6) Canada's Heritage Minister
8) VPS' transsexual lesbian cop or "The Bard"
10) One-time Liza hubby who died of AIDS
12) Method of cultivation suited to dry environment
14) Brand of bottled water or Second Cup founder Tom
16) Dean Debienne lives in these Lofts
18) Executive Director of Toronto's of Lesbian & Gay Film Festival
19) Location of Russian River tourist area
20) Greg Armstrong-Morris portrays this feisty "lady"
21) Upscale faucets on J. Fantastic's home "hit list"
24) New club night at World in Vancouver
25) Karl Lohnes' article: "Foundations of _____"
29) Scott Clark art exhibit at Devo Gallery: Trafficking _____

Earthly delights

By Bill Brooks

A recent survey ranked gardening as the number-one pastime in North America. Many of the respondents said they preferred gardening to sex! Although I was not one of those surveyed, I certainly *do* get a great deal of joy puttering in the yard. And even though gardening in Calgary (or other parts of the country) can be a challenge, creating a beautiful outdoor living space is truly one of life's greatest pleasures. Whether you are an apartment/condo dweller or a homeowner, there are gardening "givens", which, if adhered to, will help you too create your own Giverny.

Plant material requires three things: the proper soil or growing mixture; moisture; and light. Calgary soil tends to be on the alkaline side and, in some parts of the city, clay can be a real problem. The addition of compost at least once a year (many gardeners refer to compost as black gold) will greatly enhance the soil's properties. You can easily test your soil's acidity or alkalinity by purchasing a home tester kit. Usually, though, adding compost will create the perfect soil for plant material. Compost can be purchased at any garden centre, or you can simply make your own. Kitchen scraps (excluding any meat products), grass clippings, leaves, eggshells and even coffee grounds will make an excellent compost. Simply mix these elements with a bit of soil, add heat, a bit of moisture and turn the mixture regularly. You can speed up the process by purchasing a composter from any home improvement store.

If clay is a problem, consider adding mushroom substrate, which you can get free around the first week of May from Money's Mushrooms, located just north of the city. Although there are no nutrients in mushroom substrate, the mixture will loosen clay-based soils, thereby making it easier to work-in compost. Condo dwellers and others limited to container gardening, can purchase the perfect potting soil at any garden centre or home improvement store. I've found Bell's potting soil to be among the best. You'll know your soil is 'right' by 'balling' a handful of soil and poking at it. The soil should easily break apart. Good soil also smells sweet. While we're on the subject of soil, *never* work it when it's wet; otherwise, when it finally dries out, it'll be as hard as concrete.

Excessive moisture is not usually a problem here. In fact, the last few years, our water table has dropped dramatically. You should water your lawn at least an inch per week during dry spells. Ditto for trees and shrubs. Watering is best done early in the morning on a day when there is little or no wind. Not sure what constitutes an inch… of *water*? Place an empty salmon tin under the sprinkler; when the tin is full, you've got your inch.

Believe it or not, watering is ideal on a rainy day. You'll get twice the bang, as evaporation is not a factor.

If we have another excessively dry summer, consider choosing plant material that requires little moisture. One of the new trends in gardening is xeriscaping which, simply put, is the utilization of plant material that will thrive in a natural and dry setting. Ornamental grasses, potentilla, dianthus and Icelandic poppies work well in this type of gardening.

Container gardeners should be careful to not over-water. Make sure all your pots have drainage holes or, if you have a sealed container, place several inches of pea-gravel in the bottom of the pot before adding soil and plants. On hot windy days, you may even have to water daily, especially hanging containers. If your water source is the kitchen tap, let the water sit in your watering can for several hours before watering plants. This will 'settle' the chlorine that is prevalent in much of our water.

Light is the final component necessary for plant material. If your yard or terrace is shady, don't despair: many plants do quite well in these conditions. Try hosta, Kennelworth ivy and begonia.

Roses, portulaca, geraniums and marigolds on the other hand, need full sun. Oddly enough, the wind here poses more of a challenge than the lack (or over-abundance) of light. If your garden or terrace is constantly whipped by the wind, consider erecting a trellis or plant trees and shrubs that will serve as a windbreak.

With a little time and effort, you too can create your own paradise. Gardening is good for your soul. It has even been said that gardeners make better lovers. ▼

Bill Brooks is the Associate Publisher of Outlooks and submits columns on gardening and Calgary's people to the Calgary Sun.

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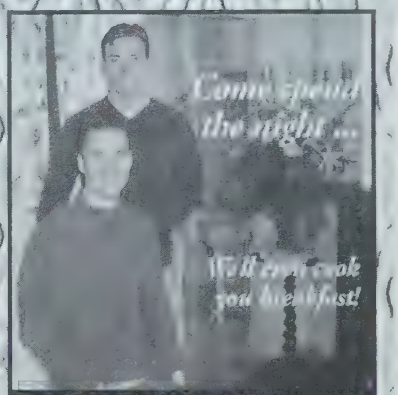

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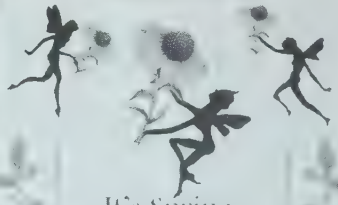

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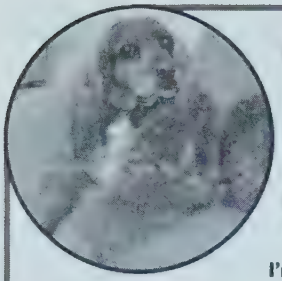

Dear Freddy

Dear Freddy,

For the past six months I've been pursuing this guy that I really like but he's been giving me mixed signals. Sometimes he's hot, sometimes he's cold—and I hate to admit it, but I think I've kind of been the same way. Whenever I'm not around him he's all I can think about, but when we get together I find myself doubting my attraction. Do you think we're not right for one another or are these just early jitters?

L.F.

Vancouver

Dear L.F.,

Well, the two of you are the only ones on this planet who can really know if an attraction is there or not, although at this point in the "relationship" I would opt for 'not'. I mean, really, this cat-and-mouse game of yours has been going on for *ages*. Hell, in the space of six months some gay men have up to sixty boyfriends and some lesbians can engage in foreplay for that amount of time—don't knock it, at least they're doing *something*. I think perhaps the two of you are destined to be friends and nothing more; after all, if there was a major flame (or even a minor spark) the two of you would have done something about it and then maybe have gone out for a nice brunch somewhere. Six months? Tsk, *tsk*, L.F.—I could've taught our little 'murican friend Dubya to read *and* count in that amount of time (OK, maybe just read; I'm not *that* good). The time has come to move on.

Much love,

Fred

P.S. There's a method to my madness here, L.F.: once you give your pal the brush-off, the two of you will be all over each other like Anna Nicole Smith on a mayonnaise-dipped Quaalude. *Promise*.

Dear Freddy,

I'm in trouble at work (so is my friend) because a girl we work with was eavesdropping on a private conversation we were having about our weekend "activities" and now she's made a sexual harassment complaint to our boss. She says we *knew* she was in the storeroom at the same time as us and made our language "extra gross and gay" just to upset her. Freddy, we didn't even know she was there! Besides, she's all creepy and fat and it offends *us* to think *she* was getting her jollies from listening in. Yuck! I should tell you that we *were* being kind of gross but we were the only two on break at the time and honestly thought we were alone in the storeroom. Any ideas on how we should handle this?

Trash Talker

Edmonton

Dear Trash (Oooh, I like you already!)

So you and your pal were having a little "round table" over the slap 'n' tickle you engaged in over the weekend, huh? Big deal! She was obviously not interested in stopping the conversation you were having or she would have said something—God only knows what she was doing behind the shoes/sweaters/soupcans (you're in retail, right?) while you were discussing your debauchery. Besides, if you were chatting when you were on a legitimate break, what was that bloated tart doing in there, anyway? Shouldn't she have been *working*?! Pervert. I suggest you chat with your boss about the matter in a mature and frank manner (offer to try to keep the trash talk out of the storeroom in future, you Trash Talker, you!). If that doesn't work then go see the regional manager—don't worry: every operation has one; they're as common as hair in an old man's ears.

Best of luck,

Freddy

Write to me, Dears!

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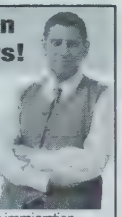

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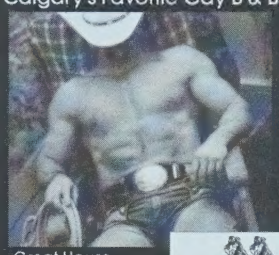

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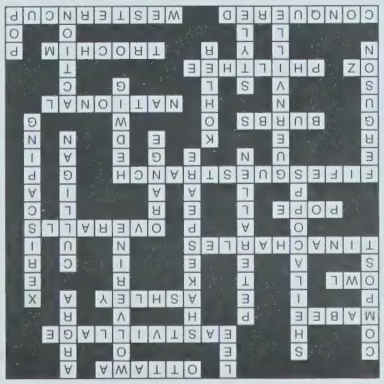

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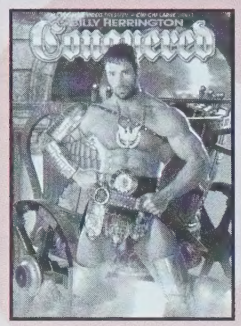
Conquered

From: All Worlds Video



Featuring: Billy Herrington, Andel, Blake Harper, Colton Ford, Nino Bacci, Casey Williams, Jay Ross, Trent Cougar, Tino Lopez, Tom Katt

Running Time: 110 minutes

When you think of the Roman Empire, it probably conjures up fantasies of decadent times and demonstrations by macho gladiators trying to impress their emperors. Even though it strays from historical accuracy, you won't be disappointed with *Conquered*, a very adult take on the goings-on of Roman times; it features impressively muscled gladiators who prove their worth and sexual prowess to each other and, of course, Emperor Caesar.

As a Billy Herrington returns from the battlefield, his wound left arm and needs immediate attention from his slave boy. Enraptured by Billy's muscular, perfect form as he washes his master's arm, the slave quickly turns his task into a full body scrubdown. He feels it is an honour to be able to worship this gladiator from head to toe and he proves how adept he is with his small hands and washcloth as he caresses Billy's battle-ravaged body. The hot gladiator has no qualms as he allows the slave to work his magic on every inch that is sore—and some that are not so sore!

As this progresses, the two guards who stand sentry over Billy's room come to believe the slave is having *too much* pleasure on his own. Andel (a real-life European god) soon shows Billy that real warriors, not slaves, should help him rid his weary body of aches and fatigue. What follows is a threesome with a trio of perfect bodies massaging and stroking each other in a classic body rub that rivals any Roman orgy! Their full, rippling muscles foreshadow the huge size of their aroused champion, now that he is off the battleground, and these two perfectly built guards know how to treat their master with respect and love.

When Blake Harper is Caesar and Billy is his number one protector, you can expect that this Rome is truly a land of giants. When Caesar gives Billy two slaves as a reward for his valiant efforts, it's not hard to figure out what they worship most about Billy's enormous prowess. Caesar also has a personal bodyguard (who can almost equal Billy and Caesar for greatness, but falls short by only a *fraction* of an inch) and the orgy that ensues is truly a clash of the Roman Empire, known for lavish sexual escapades. Enjoy this movie and journey back to a time when homosexuality was a reward for great services of macho rivalry. This all-start cast, selected by Chi Chi LaRue, will surely be your champions, on and off the battlefield.

Review sponsored by Express Video,
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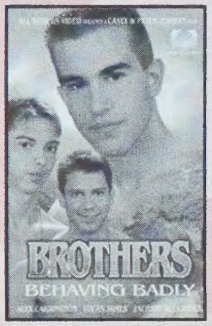
Available on DVD and VHS

RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★★ *SET:* ★★★★★
BODIES: ★★★★★ *STORY:* ★★★★
ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★

Brothers Behaving Badly

From: All Worlds Video



Featuring: Alex Carrington, Lucas James, Zachary Alexander, Christian Blair, Bryan Williams, Lance Williams, Collin Jennings

Running Time: 80 minutes

Somewhere in the southern wilderness there's an isolated family farm that three brothers have inherited and are doing their best to maintain. The oldest brother is obviously in charge and expects his two younger siblings to do their share of the chores. It's a very large farm and the brothers work hard daily to keep up with the workload.

As the day draws to a close, Lucas is cleaning up the hay in one of the barns when the oldest brother, Alex, comes into check up on him. Lucas has finally finished his work but his brother has one more chore for him to do; as he unzips his tight jeans, Lucas protests about doing this again. Lucas wonders why the youngest, Zachary, can't look after *both* of them, but Alex feels that Zack is too young for the big task at hand. With Alex and Lucas stripped down, it's easy to agree with Alex about the size of the job! While they're occupied, Zachary comes into the barn and sees his older brothers taking care of each other, but doesn't understand this weird chore that Lucas is working on.

Alex decides this is the perfect time for he and Lucas to teach Zach how to handle the biggest task of the day. After all, their pa told them to look after each other so it's time for Zachary to do his share of the family "work" . When he starts to feel horny he soon reveals the genetic similarity all three brothers share—they have certainly inherited the right tools for their jobs on this family farm. You can almost hear duelling banjos in the background!

The house and acres of farmland located in the remote southern wilderness prove to be the perfect setting for these three brothers to find plenty of trouble as strangers and neighbours turn up as the perfect companions against the isolation of farm life. Zachary learns his lesson well and very quickly demonstrates that he can handle the family business, as well as help out a few other studs at the same time. All three brothers use their enormous sexual appeal to entice any willing man to spend some quality time with the farm hands. Mother Nature must have intended the country life to be full of surprises, as it's not only the harvest that's growing in these fields. Want some help making something grow for yourself? Be sure to check out *Brothers Behaving Badly*.

Review sponsored by Rainbow Pride Resource Centre,
2nd Floor, 1229 16 Avenue S.W. Calgary
Ph: (403) 266-5685

RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★ *SET:* ★★★★★
BODIES: ★★★★ *STORY:* ★★★
ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★

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Rainbow Pride Resource Centre, 2nd Floor, 1229 16th Ave. S.W., Calgary
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Willy's Books & Video, 1109 Granville St., Vancouver
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